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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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US AND UK:

# WE 'WILL NOT BE COWED'

CHARLES D'ARABAK/AP

President Barack Obama, fourth from left, meets with leaders at a two-day NATO summit in Newport, Wales on Thursday. Other leaders, from left, are French President Francois Hollande, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

## Obama, Cameron push for NATO to confront Islamic State

By JULIE PACE  
The Associated Press

NEWPORT, Wales — NATO leaders grappled Thursday with whether the alliance has a role in containing a mounting militant threat in the Middle East as heads of state converged in Wales for a high-stakes summit also focused on the crisis in Ukraine and next steps in Afghanistan.

President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron declared that their nations would "not be cowed" by

extremists from the Islamic State group who have claimed responsibility for killing two American journalists. They also challenged NATO to not turn inward in the face of the threat.

"Those who want to adopt an isolationist approach misunderstand the nature of security in the 21st century," Obama and Cameron wrote in a joint editorial in the *Times* of London. "Developments in other parts of the world, particularly in Iraq and Syria, threaten our security at home."

Obama, Cameron and dozens of other

NATO leaders met on a golf resort in Wales for the two-day summit. Leaders here also planned to commit to a more robust rapid-response force on its eastern flank, which would aim to serve as a deterrent to Russian aggression.

Yet much of the action was to take place on the sidelines of the summit, where the American and British leaders were expected to drum up support for an international response to confronting the Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

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QUOTE  
OF THE DAY

"This must be the hottest place in the world. It's like hell."

—Ivo Steenhuisen,

Dutch tourist who was staying at the Kamgrounds of America site in Las Vegas, on the outside temperature

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ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

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2. Air Force to reprimand Kruinski rather than pursue court-martial
3. More than 100 Americans fighting with Islamic State
4. Female fighters of the PKK may be the Islamic State's worst nightmare
5. Should Fiji troops be in Syria as UN peacekeepers?

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## WAR/MILITARY

## 2 suicide truck bombs, gunbattle in Ghazni

At least 12 killed in Taliban attack on compound

By AMIR SHAH  
AND JASON STRAZIUSO  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban struck a government compound in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday in a dawn attack that included two suicide truck bombings and left at least 12 people dead, including eight off-duty policemen asleep in their quarters nearby.

The assault followed a stark message from the Taliban to world leaders gathered at a NATO summit in Wales, which will also discuss the drawdown of the alliance's mission in Afghanistan.

The exit of all foreign combat troops at the end of the year is proof that "no nation is able to subdue a free nation, especially a nation proud and free such as Afghanistan," the Taliban note said.

Thursday's attack started at sunrise, with the Taliban setting off two massive suicide truck bombs outside the government compound in the provincial capital of Ghazni, followed by an assault by nearly a dozen gunmen.

The attack triggered a gunbattle with policemen and security forces at the compound and officials said all 13 assailants were subsequently killed. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message sent to media.

The bombs blew out many windows across the city, and left about 200 people injured, mostly from flying glass, said Ghazni Gov. Musa Khan Akbarzada. He said one truck carved a 10-meter hole into the ground.

Sadly, the bombings also destroyed Ghazni's city library and two museums, the governor said.

The attack comes as Afghanistan is embroiled in a political crisis with the country's April presidential election still without a clear winner. Two candidates vying to succeed President Hamid Karzai pulled their observers out



RAHMATULLAH NIKZAD/AP

Afghan security forces walk at the site of a Thursday suicide attack in Ghazni, Afghanistan.

of a ballot audit meant to determine the winner of a June runoff. The audit's final results are expected sometime next week.

Even though NATO forces are to leave Afghanistan, a small number of U.S. and international troops may stay on after 2014 to advise and assist the Afghans. But that is likely contingent on Afghanistan signing a security arrangement with the United States, something Karzai has so far refused to do. And despite the exit of most foreign forces, violence between the Taliban and the Afghan government is expected to continue.

Both presidential candidates — Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister, and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani — have pledged to sign the security deal.

Had the vote been resolved, it was expected that Karzai's successor would have attended the summit in Wales.

The Taliban needed the alliance ahead of the summit.

"Their 13-year-old occupation is now seen as a historical shame," said their statement, released late Wednesday. "It was planned that Afghanistan's next leader would participate in the Wales Summit. Now their plans have come to naught."

The election impasse has also hurt Afghanistan's economy, as

## Coalition member killed in southeastern Afghanistan

Stars and Stripes

A member of the NATO-led military coalition in Afghanistan was killed Thursday in an enemy attack in southeastern Afghanistan.

A statement from the International Security Assistance Force did not identify the individual or provide details of the attack. Coalition members typically provide the names of their casualties.

Casualty rates for ISAF servicemembers have fallen in

recent years as Afghan security forces assume more of the fighting against insurgents. ISAF servicemembers still work closely with Afghan forces and patrol their own bases.

Roughly 44,000 international troops remain in Afghanistan — including nearly 30,000 Americans — as the coalition prepares to end its combat mission this year. NATO plans to call for a residual training and advising force to remain after 2014, pending agreements with the government.

customers worrying about the outbreak of civil war hold onto their money and investors put the brakes on new projects as they wait to see how the crisis unfolds.

The target of the Ghazni attack was apparently the local office of domestic intelligence, which is part of the compound, according to Asadullah Ensafi, the deputy police chief.

One of the truck bombs killed eight off-duty police officers who were asleep in their housing unit

near the site, said Khan Pacha Shirzad, a police commander. Three security forces and one civilian were also killed, said Zia Gul Esfandi, the director of the public health department.

The Taliban regularly stage brazen attacks against Afghan forces and government institutions.

In July, a suicide bomber blew up a car near a bus mosque and a market in the eastern province of Pakitika, killing at least 89 people.

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## MILITARY

# Pentagon eases rules on discharge upgrades

New directive aims to help claims process for Vietnam veterans with undiagnosed PTSD

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel signed a directive Wednesday to make it easier for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder claims to get their unfavorable discharges upgraded.

Many Vietnam veterans claiming to have service-related PTSD have been petitioning the applicable "board for correction" for an upgrade to their discharge sta-

tus. During the Vietnam War era, the U.S. military did not recognize PTSD as a legitimate medical diagnosis.

A less-than-honorable discharge can have many negative effects on a former servicemember, including a loss of benefits.

"Liberal consideration" will now be given in cases where there is any evidence to indicate that PTSD might have contributed to misconduct that led to a less than honorable discharge, Hagel said

in the memorandum. Hagel noted that records for troops who served before PTSD was recognized often lack important information, which makes it "extremely difficult" to document PTSD or establish a connection between PTSD and misconduct.

The new policy guidance will make it easier for veterans to make their case that undiagnosed PTSD negatively influenced their behavior while they were in the service. It also clarifies how boards should

judge applications.

Hagel said PTSD and related conditions will be considered potentially mitigating factors if they can simply be "reasonably determined" to have existed when the person was discharged for misconduct.

The existence of PTSD or PTSD-related symptoms at the time of discharge will not necessarily result in an upgrade. The Pentagon chief directed the boards to "exercise caution" when it comes to

cases where a discharge stemmed from "serious" or "premeditated" misconduct.

"Potentially mitigating evidence of the existence of undiagnosed combat-related PTSD ... will be carefully weighed against the severity of the misconduct," Hagel said. Moreover, the new guidance does not apply to people who had pre-existing PTSD that was not aggravated by military service.

harper.jon@stripes.com  
Twitter: @HarperStripes

## DOD shipping contractor to offer vehicle tracking info

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

The company that has come under fire for long delays in shipping vehicles for Defense Department employees says it is working on an update to its website that will allow customers to track their vehicles.

Many customers making permanent change-of-station moves have complained that International Auto Logistics, which took over the government contract to ship DOD employees' vehicles in May, has failed to provide timely information on the status of vehicles in transit. Customers have said that they are facing long delays in receiving their vehicles at their new duty station.

Ken Quinn, chief financial officer and senior vice president of International, said the company is conducting a full inventory that will be posted to the company's website so customers can track their vehicles.

Quinn said the company started using a new, electronic system in mid-July to track vehicles. Information was entered manually into the previous system, he said.

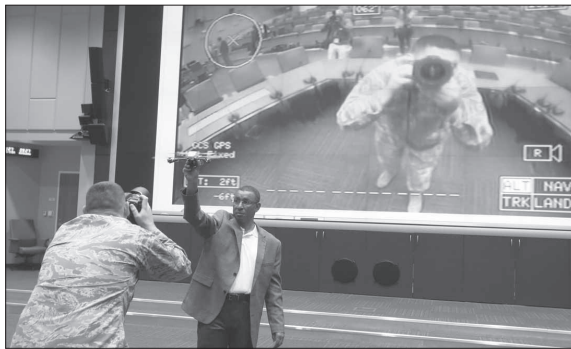
This system has shown a "dramatic improvement" and most vehicles have now been entered, he said.

Some vehicles in transit when the electronic system came online could not be entered, he said, but a full inventory is under way and should be completed by next week, he said.

"We are not going to rest until every member is reunited with their vehicle," Quinn said.

Since International took over the contract, customers have complained of lengthy delays. Last month, six current and former DOD employees filed a class-action lawsuit claiming failure to deliver vehicles or provide accurate information on their whereabouts.

mathis.adam@stripes.com  
Twitter: @AMathisStripes



WILFREDO LEE/AP

## Seeing you seeing me

Ricky Stuart, advanced technology manager for U.S. Southern Command, holds up an "InstantEye" aerial drone for Air Force Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hoy to photograph while the drone's view is projected on a screen during a demonstration at SOUTHCOM headquarters in Doral, Fla., on Wednesday. SOUTHCOM is showing off new equipment intended to improve communications on disaster relief and humanitarian missions.

## Senator urges quick action on review of care

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., urged the Pentagon this week to quickly complete its review of military hospitals following a recent investigation by The New York Times that found dangerous lapses in care and accountability at the facilities.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered the review in May and a series of articles by the newspaper has since added urgency.

The paper found the hospitals underperform and that deaths or injuries caused by apparent medical mistakes were often never investigated by the military as required.

Durbin, who chairs the Senate appropriations defense subcommittee, wrote to Hagel this week asking that the reported problems be addressed in the ongoing Department of Defense review and that the defense secretary brief the committee as soon as possible. The review is slated to be completed this fall, according to Durbin's office.

"In light of deeply concerning reports of subpar care and mismanagement within the

Military Health System, I ask that all cases of permanent harm or death — so called 'sentinel events' — are thoroughly and impartially investigated," Durbin wrote to Hagel. "The department's ongoing review of the health care system should look carefully at the quality of care, in addition to ensuring that patient care is the system's primary mission."

The military health care system is one of the Pentagon's biggest and fastest growing expenses. The Times reported that the department originally began the review to look at cutting billions of cases in a system of hospitals that cares for about 1.6 million active-duty troops and their dependents at bases in the United States and around the world.

After obtaining leaked information from the review, the Times reported that the hospitals

make up a "system in which scrutiny is sporadic and avoidable errors are chronic."

Meanwhile, military treatment in many base hospitals, especially small facilities with underutilized staff, falls below the standards of care for civilian hospitals, the Times investigation found. For example, military hospitals averaged almost double the rate of infant trauma during birth than civilian hospitals, according to the Times.

The revelations come as the separate Department of Veterans Affairs health care system is mired in a nationwide scandal for concealing long patient wait times and ignoring serious lapses in treatment at hundreds of facilities across the U.S.

In August, President Barack Obama signed off on an emergency \$16.3 billion overhaul of the VA system, which cares for about 9 million beneficiaries and is the largest health care system in the U.S.

The law includes \$10 billion in new spending to give veterans access to private health care outside the VA.

tritten.travis@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Travis\_Tritten

## Child found dead in car on Navy base

The Associated Press

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. — Navy officials say a 17-month-old boy was found dead in a vehicle at a naval station in southern Maryland.

Public affairs officer Connie Hempel said in a news release that the child was found unresponsive in the back of a vehicle about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. Hempel said emergency workers from the station performed CPR but the boy was pronounced dead at 4:15 p.m.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating. NCIS spokesman Ed Buice said in an email late Wednesday that the boy was left in his car by his father, who works at the base.

Buice did not know how long the child had been in the vehicle.



## PACIFIC



KIM YOUNG-HO/Courtesy of 8th Army Public Affairs

American and South Korean forces from Task Force Bayonet conduct a combined training exercise at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in South Korea. U.S. and South Korean officials are planning to form a combined division that would be led by an American officer.

## US, S. Korea planning to form combined division

By Ashley Rowland  
and Yoo Kyong Chang  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea will form a combined division early next year to improve the allies' war-fighting capabilities and create more opportunities for efficient joint training, defense officials said Thursday.

"It is also going to serve as momentum to overcome problems, including sentiment and language, between the U.S. and South Korean troops," said a spokesman for South Korea's Ministry of National Defense.

He said the combined division will be headquartered in Uijeongbu and headed by an American commander with a South Korean deputy.

U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti told reporters last November that a

combined division was a "strong possibility" and would "be a strong additive to our alliance."

Few details were released Thursday, though USFK said in a statement that "combined planning at all affected levels of command is ongoing."

"The aim of the Combined Division is to enhance the combined defense of the ROK (Republic of Korea) and readiness of the Alliance ... the initiative is designed to enhance Alliance capabilities for the defense of the ROK," the statement said.

An Defense Ministry spokesman said the size of the division is "secret." During peacetime, troops from each country will live at separate bases and train together as needed, he said.

Another defense official told the South Korea's Yonhap News the division will include soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division and a South Korean brigade-level unit.

If war broke out, the troops would jointly carry out "strategic operations" such as missions to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and civil missions against North Korea, he said.

He said the division's leadership will include an equal number of personnel from each country.

The combined division will eventually move to Pyeongtaek as the 2nd Infantry Division shifts to Camp Humphreys as part of a long-planned relocation of most Army forces on the peninsula to regional hubs. The relocation is expected to largely be completed by 2017 as the \$10.7 billion expansion of Humphreys finishes, military officials have said.

Officials from both countries emphasized that creation of the new division would not affect plans for the move.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com  
chang.yookyoung@stripes.com

## Fort Hood battalion deploying to S. Korea

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A Fort Hood-based battalion will soon head to South Korea in the latest rotational deployment on the peninsula.

The 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division will arrive at Camps Hovey and Stan-

ley, north of Seoul, in October, the Army's III Corps announced this week.

"This action is part of U.S. enduring rebalancing efforts within the Asia-Pacific region, and allows for greater responsiveness to better meet theater operational requirements," the corps said in a statement.

The 800 soldiers will replace the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, which will return to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Hood after its rotation ends.

The 1-12 CAV brought about 40 M1A2 Abrams tanks and 40 M2A3 Bradleys, which are scheduled to remain in Korea for follow-on rotations.

## Seoul high school student diagnosed with meningitis

By Ashley Rowland  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A Seoul American High School student has been diagnosed with viral meningitis but is responding well to treatment, according to U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan.

A garrison statement said the male student was diagnosed last weekend with suspected bacterial meningitis, typically more serious than viral meningitis. However, a DNA test later showed he had viral meningitis. Symptoms include sudden fever, headache and stiff neck.

The student has undergone antibiotic treatment and is recovering, the statement said.

Lt. Col. HengMo McCall, chief of the Army Public Health Nursing Service at U.S. Army Medical Activity Korea, said Thursday that he is doing "very well" at the garrison hospital. She could not comment on when he would be released.

An investigation showed the student had few close contacts with others, aside from his immediate family and one other student. None has shown symptoms of the disease, and all have been treated with a single dose of antibiotics as a preventive measure, the garrison said.

McCall said the student had been exposed to others who were ill before the beginning of the

school year, and it was impossible to say how he contracted the virus that led to his illness.

DODEA Pacific spokesman Charly Hoff said the student was a member of the school's cross country team. McCall said health and safety precautions were not needed at the high school, and students were being encouraged to practice good personal hygiene to prevent contracting viruses.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, meningitis is caused by inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, and can be caused by bacteria, viruses, injury, cancer or some drugs. Viral meningitis can be serious but is rarely life-threatening in people with normal immune systems.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported only three cases of meningitis in 2014, according to the garrison.

"A patient coming down with meningitis does not necessarily have to get it from someone else," the statement quoted Col. Sam Lee of the 65th Medical Brigade as saying. "It can be from the normal bacterial that is around our skin and body parts."

The community will be informed of developments in the case, garrison commander Col. Maria P. Eoff said in the statement.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

## Military works on Saipan to clear unexploded ordnance

By Wyatt Olsson  
Stars and Stripes

In the summer of 1944, U.S. Marines captured the island of Saipan, part of the Mariana Islands. Securing the island was considered crucial in the Allied plan to use the island as an air base for B-29 bomber raids on the Japanese mainland.

The U.S. completed an airstrip in the island's northern Marpi area, storing vast amounts of ordnance in the surrounding area for what military planners thought would be an inevitable invasion of the mainland.

With the detonation of atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945, that final attack wasn't necessary. But untold tons of ordnance left behind by Japanese and U.S. forces are now buried and overgrown on the island. They remain a threat, particularly during construction.

Unexploded ordnance cleanup was attempted in the 1950s and again in the 1960s in the Marpi area, but most of it remained untouched.

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began

awarding grants for cleanup in the Marpi area to facilitate plans for construction of 500 new homes.

Saipan's Department of Public Safety and explosive ordnance disposal technicians from the U.S. Navy and Air Force have been working together to clear some of that unexploded ordnance.

During three exercises this past year, those combined agencies collected 2,600 pounds of unexploded ordnance for disposal, according to Joint Region Marianas.

Some of the munitions are destroyed by using C-4 explosives.

olsson.wyatt@stripes.com

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## MILITARY

# Understanding GI Bill in-state tuition ceiling

By TOM PHILPOTT

Perhaps the first thing veterans using GI Bill education benefits should understand about new "in-state tuition" protection that Congress approved last month is that it won't take effect for another year, until fall semester 2015.

That delay will give state-run colleges and universities — or, in some cases, state legislatures — time to prepare policies or laws to lower tuition and costs for non-resident veterans to match what in-state students face.

The delay also means the population primarily to benefit from the in-state tuition mandate are those planning to leave active duty to use the GI Bill in another year, said William Hubbard, vice president of government affairs for Student Veterans of America. That's because most current GI Bill users will have established in-state residency by then, anyway.

Indeed, public colleges and universities in 27 states already offer nonresident veterans in-state tuition rates. Schools that don't by July 1 next year, however, won't be able to participate in the Post-9/11 and Montgomery GI Bill programs, forcing student vets to use education benefits elsewhere.

Currently Post-9/11 benefits cover all in-state tuition and fees at public colleges and universities. But an estimated 3,800 veterans annually face substantial out-of-pocket costs because they elect to attend state-run colleges as nonresidents. Transferring GI Bill students, for example, can be hit hard for a year until they reestablish state residency.

But most of those impacted are newly discharged veterans who decide to attend college in states

## MILITARY UPDATE

where they served last on active duty. Until they establish residency, they face out-of-state tuition and fees that their GI Bill benefits won't cover, often costing them thousands of dollars.

For-profit schools have used that gap in GI Bill coverage of nonresidents enrolled in public universities to pitch their own costly programs to veterans, touting huge amounts in tuition and fees that can be saved at their schools through use of the Yellow Ribbon feature of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Under Yellow Ribbon, private colleges, including for-profits, can elect to waive up to half of their tuition and fees not covered by basic Post-9/11 benefits — the current cap is \$20,235 per academic year — and the VA must match the waived amount, further enhancing the benefit.

"There's no doubt that many predatory for-profits misled vets into thinking they were getting a 'better deal' out of their GI benefits in covering higher for-profit tuition and fees," said Makese Motley, assistant director for federal policy for American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Besides financial relief to nonresident veterans, the new law will guarantee in-state tuition to dependents of veterans who use transferred Post-9/11 benefits. That combination of breaks also could lower the federal government's tab for GI Bill benefits by

\$175 million during the next decade, CBO estimates.

Public colleges and universities set lower in-state tuition rates because most states subsidize education costs for their residents. So the new requirement for state-run schools to offer nonresident veterans lower rates, too, threatens to create funding shortfalls unless state legislatures vote to increase subsidies, or state-run schools opt to impose tuition hikes on all students.

But Hubbard, with Student Veterans of America, predicted the impact on state schools for compliance would be "fairly negligible." He used California as an example.

"It's a large system with lots of schools, lots of veterans," Hubbard said. "If the entire California sys-

tem were to grant tomorrow in-state tuition for student veterans, and those costs were distributed across the student population, the increase for other students would be about \$4" per semester. He compared that to student activity fees, which can range from \$25 to \$50.

The cost to any one school also should be marginal, Hubbard said.

Barnak Nassirian, director of federal policy at AASCU, said his organization long has supported reducing tuition for veterans, both to limit their out-of-pocket costs and to provide "more attractive alternatives to predatory for-profit schools. Offering out-of-state veterans in-state tuition is certainly the best way of improving educational benefits for them."

But the in-state tuition requirement enacted as part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 last month was "the least constructive" path Congress could have taken to achieve those goals.

It legislated "the proverbial free lunch by mandating in-state tuition for veterans and their dependents" without covering "the significant costs this will impose on public colleges," Nassirian said.

But public colleges and universities will adapt, Nassirian said, and they still view access to education for veterans as a significant responsibility.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centerville, VA, 20121, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military\_Update.

## ARCHIVE PHOTO of the Day



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## Wash. governor launches statewide military alliance

By RACHEL LA CORTE  
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday renewed a statewide military alliance in an effort to fend off the economic effects of planned personnel cuts at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Inslee signed the agreement launching the Washington Military Alliance. More than 20 military and economic development leaders attended the signing.

Inslee noted that as of 2012, the state's military industry accounted for 136,000 jobs and \$15.7 billion in economic activity.

"This isn't just rhetoric," Inslee said. "It's numbers."

The group's goals include protecting the state's military and defense infrastructure, including the thousands of jobs tied to the industry throughout the state. The group will serve as a policy adviser to the governor and other state officials.

"It's really all about protecting the military assets that we have," said Rich Hadley, presi-

dent emeritus of Greater Spokane Inc., one of the groups that signed on to the agreement. "It's a tough time. And we really have to work together if we're going to protect the assets that we already have."

In a letter sent to Army officials last month, Inslee said that cuts at the base would hurt the economy.

The Army is studying the effects of force reductions at bases around the country. The review assumes a loss of about 16,000 soldiers and civilian workers at Lewis-McChord from the base's peak staffing level in 2011. Lewis-McChord has already been reduced by about 5,400.

Inslee has also challenged an Army economic analysis that found the state would lose just \$17.4 million in tax revenue through 2020. He said the figure could be four times that.

The military alliance was first formed in 2012, bringing together then-Gov. Chris Gregoire, members of the state's congressional delegation, state lawmakers and regional advocacy groups, in response to possible base closures.

## NATO SUMMIT

## NATO vows to fund Afghan forces through '17

By JOSH SMITH  
Stars and Stripes

NEWPORT, Wales — NATO's optimistic proclamations on Afghanistan went head-to-head with a bleak reality on Thursday as leaders of the alliance met to discuss the final chapter in their aid to that country after nearly 13 years of war.

President Barack Obama and other NATO heads of state are meeting at a posh resort not far from the Welsh capital of Cardiff. Such events are typically well-scripted and offer few surprises, but this summit finds the alliance facing myriad security issues that challenge its capabilities and purpose.

Officials were careful to avoid any loaded talk of a "mission accomplished" in Afghanistan, and they readily acknowledged that there is a long road ahead, but NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and British Prime Minister David Cameron insisted that the alliance is proud of its achievements.

"For over a decade, NATO allies and partner nations have stood shoulder to shoulder in our

most challenging combat mission," Rasmussen said before a closed-door session to discuss the future of NATO involvement in Afghanistan. "We have done what we pledged to do."

But the news out of Afghanistan continued to cast a cloud of uncertainty over the discussions. As NATO heads of state gathered in Wales on Thursday, at least 12 Afghans died and more than 200 were injured by a suicide attack. NATO's International Security Assistance Force announced that another coalition soldier had died during an insurgent attack in eastern Afghanistan, underscoring the fact that more than 40,000 NATO and partner troops remain in the war-torn country.

And in an embarrassing incident, British media reported that a senior Afghan official sought asylum upon arriving in the United Kingdom, although Afghan officials denied that he was part of the official delegation.

In addition, an unresolved presidential election meant there was no Afghan head of state to fete at the summit, complicating any messages of closure and undermining talk of future plans.

More immediately, the election dispute has left a critical agreement over future international troop commitments unsigned. Financial donors have said a peaceful political transition is a prerequisite for the future aid upon which Afghanistan relies.

Rising levels of violence have led Afghan officials to ask for more money to maintain the current number of some 350,000 security forces, rather than reducing them as envisioned by plans made several years ago.

While Rasmussen did not announce specific numbers, NATO officials privately admitted that contributor nations have resigned themselves to funding a larger number of Afghan troops than originally planned, at least for the near future.

Today, nations renewed their financial commitments to support the sustainment of the ANSF, a declaration to the end of 2017," a declaration released on Thursday by NATO read. "We also urge the wider international community to remain engaged in the financial sustainment of the ANSF."

Afghan Defense Minister Bismullah Khan Muhammad, who

was sent to represent Afghanistan, appeared satisfied with the response he received at the summit.

"The international community has strong support for Afghanistan," he told Stars and Stripes after the meeting with NATO leaders. "We came away with a reaffirmation of NATO's continued support for Afghanistan."

NATO donors pledged to help Afghanistan fund its security forces to the tune of \$5.1 billion per year, an increase over what was expected during the last NATO summit in 2012, Muhammad said.

But the challenges in Afghanistan have been overshadowed by NATO's Cold War foe, Russia, and the advances of the Islamic State in Iraq. Later on Thursday, NATO leaders moved on to the Ukraine conflict and Russia's involvement in the region, seen as one of the most pressing challenges to the



Muhammadi

alliance.

The final day of the summit on Friday will feature sessions examining the future of NATO, a topic also expected to be dominated by Ukraine, as well as the bloody conflicts in the Middle East. Top American officials such as Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Secretary of State John Kerry are expected to meet with their counterparts in closed-door discussions.

U.S. officials say leaders will seek to use the experience in Afghanistan to lay the foundation for NATO's future.

"We're moving into a world in which NATO will be less salient in Afghanistan, but in which we want to capitalize on the lessons that we've learned, the partnerships that we've built — what we're calling the interoperability platform that has emerged where NATO members have learned to work with a very wide range of countries across the globe," Charles Kupchan, senior director for European Affairs at the National Security Council, told reporters during a conference call last week.

smith.josh@stripes.com  
Twitter: @joshsmith

## Breedlove: Allies must prepare for Russian 'hybrid war'

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

NATO must help allies in the east bolster first-line defenses to counter any aggression from Russia, whose unconventional tactics in Ukraine could pose special challenges if deployed on alliance turf, Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's top military commander, said Thursday.

Before the incursion of what Western officials say are regular Russian troops into Ukraine, Moscow stirred unrest in other ways during the early stages of the crisis, Breedlove said during an Atlantic Council event that coincided with the start of NATO's two-day summit in Wales.

Russia's utilization of troops without national uniforms — the so-called "little green men" — and perhaps "the most amazing information warfare blitzkrieg we have ever seen in the history of information warfare" were part of the first Russian push into Ukraine, Breedlove said.

NATO members, especially the Baltic states that border Russia,



Breedlove

must take into account such tactics as allies prepare for future threats, he said. That means the alliance should be taken to help build the capacity of other arms

of government, such as interior ministries and police forces, to counter unconventional attacks, including propaganda campaigns, cyberattacks or homegrown separatist militias.

"What we see in Russia now, in this hybrid approach to war, is to use all the tools they have ... to stir up problems they can then begin to exploit through their military tool," said Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander.

By building up pre-crisis capabilities to deal with such tactics, nations will be better able to assign responsibility to an aggressor nation, which is key to triggering NATO involvement in

a crisis, Breedlove said.

"When you cannot attribute (to an aggressor), this causes problems," Breedlove said. "But the moment we attribute these actions to an aggressor nation, now this is Article 5. So we need to build the nations' ability to fight through that first onslaught, attribute to an aggressor nation, and then NATO Article 5 kicks in."

Article 5 is the NATO principle that an attack on one member requires a collective response from all.

Russia continues to deny it has forces in Ukraine, an assertion Breedlove described as absurd.

"We're observing Russian forces fighting alongside separatists inside Ukraine," Breedlove said. "Russian air defense assets are being used to conceal the defense of Russian tactical units throughout eastern Ukraine, and still, still, Moscow is continuing to deny any direct involvement across the border. Despite the casualties and deaths that are mounting of their own soldiers."

In Wales, NATO is expected to

act on plans to establish a more visible presence in eastern Europe with a focus on maintaining a troop presence at a series of bases in the region. NATO also needs a forward-stationed headquarters in the region that is focused on Article 5 preparedness, Breedlove said.

An increased presence, along with a NATO Response Force reshaped to better handle rapid-

reaction missions, is needed in answer to Russian aggression in Ukraine, Breedlove said. With an operational presence in the east, NATO will also have the ability to surge forces if needed.

"If we need to, we can rapidly respond with much larger and more capable forces if we see an act of aggression," Breedlove said.

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## Ukraine, rebels seen close to cease-fire

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Ukraine and the pro-Russia separatists appeared increasingly close to signing a deal to end four months of fighting, as NATO leaders including President Barack Obama expressed support for Ukraine at a NATO summit Thursday.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said he's ready to order

a cease-fire in the east Friday if a peace deal is signed that day at talks in Minsk, Belarus. The rebels also said they were ready to declare a truce Friday if an agreement with Ukraine is reached on a political settlement for the mostly Russian-speaking region.

Poroshenko discussed the outlines of a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, and they both voiced

optimism about reaching an agreement in Minsk.

Before the summit's official proceedings began, Poroshenko attended a meeting with Obama and the leaders of NATO's four major European powers: British Prime Minister David Cameron, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

## NATO SUMMIT

# Russia stymies eastern hopes for NATO bases

## Founding Act accord cited as Germany, others oppose request

By VANESSA GERA  
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — On the eve of a NATO summit, President Barack Obama gave the alliance's eastern European members a soaring assurance of protection from any Russian threat. But Poland and the Baltic states are seeking more than lofty words: They want permanent bases with troops on their land.

And they probably won't get that.

While the request from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will be on the agenda at the summit in Wales, European heavyweight Germany and other members strongly oppose it. They argue that it would violate a 1997 agreement with Russia in which NATO pledges not to put "substantial combat forces" in central and eastern Europe.

The eastern NATO members suspect, however, that the accord with Russia is just a cover for not wanting to further damage economic relations. And Poland argues that the agreement, known as the Founding Act, has already been invalidated by Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Speaking in the Estonian capital, Tallinn, Obama declared on Wednesday: "You lost your independence once before. With NATO, you'll never lose it again." While that will be a heartening message for Poland and the Baltic states, there were no details of the kind of action that might back it up.

Germany has been specific about what it will not mean. In Latvia last month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there will be "no permanent stationing of combat troops" on the alliance's eastern edge. While saying that she understands the concerns of the eastern members, she stressed that "we have ... a

NATO-Russia Act that for the moment I do not want to overstep."

Days later Poland's defense minister, Tomasz Siemoniak, seemed resigned that the Sept. 4-5 summit would agree on lesser measures, such as rotations of NATO troops into the region and the pre-positioning of supplies there so NATO could react more quickly if attacked.

"This concept is OK with us. We don't want to make a fetish of the word 'permanent,'" Siemoniak said in an interview with the Rzeczpospolita newspaper.

NATO leaders are expected to agree on the creation of a rapid response force, a military unit that would be capable of deploying quickly to Eastern Europe. The plan includes the pre-positioning of equipment and logistics facilities in the region that would enable NATO to react quickly.

But it is less than the two heavy combat brigades that Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski had called for in the spring — and it is clear that many Eastern Europeans are bitter.

Many Poles feel that the West treats it as a second-class NATO member in an attempt to appease Moscow. And they say it is unjust that Poland has helped its allies by sending troops to Afghanistan and Iraq but is being denied the security guarantees it now feels it needs.

"When a dangerous and unpleasant task has to be performed, like sending thousands of troops across the world, Poland is told by its allies that it is in the West," commentator Jerzy Haszczyński wrote in Rzeczpospolita. "It is there 100 percent, without a doubt and without baggage from the time of Soviet domination. Everything changes when it's not Poland that has to do something, but the old West that has to do something for Poland."

Some leaders have been ar-



MINDAUGAS KULBIS/AP

**Soldiers from NATO countries practice in June during the military exercise Saber Strike 2014 at the Rukla military base, some 75 miles west of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius.**



JOHN SUPER/AP

**From left, as NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen looks on, German Chancellor Angela Merkel shakes hands with British Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday as she arrives for the NATO summit at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales.**

guing for months that it makes no sense for NATO to keep significant bases in places like Germany and Italy, far from any apparent threats, while keeping none on NATO's eastern flank now that Russia is growing more threatening.

Sikorski said that Poland only wants what West Germany had during the Cold War, when U.S. troops were stationed there as a deterrent to the sizable Soviet forces in East Germany.

"I am not saying that this is a new Cold War, or that we are back to this kind of confrontation," Sikorski said in a recent interview with the website [www.ozzy.com](http://www.ozzy.com). "But the forces that we are

asking for are 1 percent of what (Germany) had in the 1980s."

There is no doubt that cash-strapped NATO members are also hesitant to commit to bases that could be there for years or decades. And those that have bases will be hesitant to give up the jobs and other economic advantages they bring. For instance, a permanent transfer of airmen from the NATO base in Aviano, Italy, to Eastern Europe would have ramifications in the area as Italy battles recession.

Romania, which is also nervous about Russian aggression in the Black Sea region, is also discussing plans for NATO to base fighter planes and personnel

there. President Traian Basescu said Wednesday that 200 NATO pilots, mechanics and maintenance personnel will be stationed in Romania.

The Founding Act was signed in 1997, after the Soviet Union collapsed and NATO and a democratizing Russia were seeking a partnership. The agreement states that the two sides "do not consider each other as adversaries" and would work for lasting peace. They vow not to use force against each other or to violate the territorial integrity or independence of any other state.

To appease Moscow, which was opposed to the expansion of NATO into parts of the former Soviet bloc, NATO agreed not to put substantial combat forces into the region.

"From the outset, countries like Poland were skeptical about an explicit pledge since it would create a kind of two-tiered alliance," said Jacek Dzurkalec, a defense analyst with the Polish Institute of International Affairs.

Liana Fix, an associate fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations, said that Germany's resistance to breaking with the Founding Act comes from a broader respect for treaties and other international obligations. Not provoking Russia with bases near its borders would also give Moscow room to back down from its confrontational approach, something Merkel's words in Riga seemed to suggest when she said that she wouldn't overstep the act "for the moment."



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## MIDEAST

# NATO: Rasmussen says the international community 'has obligation to stop Islamic State'

FROM FRONT PAGE

Arriving at the summit site on Thursday, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he believes the broader international community "has an obligation to stop the Islamic State from advancing further," but noted that the alliance hasn't received any request for help.

"I'm sure that if the Iraqi government were to forward a request for NATO assistance, that would be considered seriously by NATO allies," Rasmussen said.

Obama also met Thursday with Jordanian King Abdullah II, a key U.S. ally in the Middle East that's caught in the crossfire of the region's instability.

The Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for murdering two American journalists, releasing gruesome videos of their beheadings. Both the U.S. and Britain are deeply concerned about the potential threat to their homelands that could come from the foreign fighters who have joined the violent Islamic State.

Cameron on Monday proposed new laws that would give police the power to seize the passports of Britons suspected of having traveled abroad to fight with terrorist groups.

The U.S. began launching airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq last month, and both the U.S. and Britain have been making humanitarian aid drops to besieged minority groups there. Cameron said that he hadn't ruled out joining the U.S. in airstrikes, but added that the priority was to support those already fighting the militants on the ground.

"If terrorists think we will weaken in the face of their threats they could not be more wrong," the two wrote. "Countries like Britain and America will not be cowed by barbaric killers. We will be more forthright in the defense of our values, not least because a world of greater freedom is a fundamental part of how we keep our

people safe."

Also facing Obama is a decision about whether to expand U.S. military action against the extremists in Syria. While Obama has said he's considering that step, he has suggested in recent days that it's not imminent.

U.S. officials say Obama is reluctant to delve into Syria's quagmire on his own. He's expected to use some of his discussions in Wales to try to build a coalition that could join him in confronting the Islamic State through a combination of military might, diplomatic pressure and economic penalties.

Obama and Cameron visited a local school Thursday morning, where they greeted students learning about NATO before sitting down for a private meeting. Later, the two met with their counterparts from France, Germany and Italy to discuss the crisis in Ukraine. In a show of Western solidarity, new Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko also joined the discussion.

Ukraine and Russia have been locked in a standoff for months, with pro-Moscow forces stirring instability in eastern Ukrainian cities. On the eve of the NATO summit, Russia and Ukraine said they were working on a deal to halt the fighting, but Western leaders expressed skepticism — noting it wasn't the first attempt to end the deadly conflict.

A centerpiece of the NATO summit was to be the announcement of the rapid response force. Officials said the alliance could position at least 4,000 forces and military equipment in the Baltics and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

"We must use our military to ensure a persistent presence in Eastern Europe, making clear to Russia that we will always uphold our Article 5 commitments to collective self-defense," Obama and Cameron wrote.

Under Article 5 of the NATO charter, an attack on one member state is viewed as an attack on the whole alliance.



AP

## Targeting the Islamic State

Iraqi security forces and Shiite militiamen fire at Islamic State militant positions during an operation outside Anirli, some 105 miles north of Baghdad, on Wednesday. The Islamic State has carved out a self-styled caliphate in the large area straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border that it now controls. In early August, the United States launched airstrikes on the militant group in Iraq in an effort to help Iraqi forces fight back against the growing militant threat.

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## Report: Top aide to ISIS leader al-Baghdadi, two others killed

Stars and Stripes

A senior aide to Islamic State commander Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in an airstrike in the Iraqi city of Mosul, media reports said Thursday.

Al Arabiya television, a Saudi Arabian station, and NBC reported the claim, citing the Iraqi Defense Ministry. NBC quoted an unnamed senior Iraqi security official as saying the U.S. carried out the attack.

A Pentagon spokesman, Col. Steve Warren, could not confirm the report, saying the U.S. has not targeted individual figures in the terrorist movement. Warren said the U.S. airstrikes have been directed against troop concentrations threatening specific areas in the north, including the Mosul

dam and the Kurdish capital of Erbil.

"If there were no leaders inside of ISIL troop formations that have been attacked, then they will likely be killed," Warren said, using one of the acronyms for the Islamic State.

The Iraqi ministry identified the aide as Abu Hajar Al-Sufi and said two other Islamic State figures were killed. The ministry did not say how it knew about the purported deaths, and some Iraqi claims of tactical success against the militants have been exaggerated.

Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, has been under Islamic State control since the Iraqi army collapsed in the north in June in the face of an insurgent offensive.

## MIDEAST

## Islamic State has GOP back to 'hawkish ways'

BY SEBASTIAN PAYNE  
AND ROBERT COSTA  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A roiling national debate over how to deal with the radical Islamic State and other global hot spots has prompted a sudden shift in Republican politics, putting a halt to the anti-interventionist mood that had been gaining credence in the party.

The change is evident on the campaign trail ahead of the November midterm elections and in recent appearances by the GOP's prospective 2016 presidential candidates, with a near-universal embrace of stronger military actions against the group that has bedeviled two American journalists.

A hawkish tone has become integral to several key Republican Senate campaigns, with a group of candidates running in battleground states calling attention to their ties to veterans and their support for the U.S. military at every turn.

In contests in Iowa, Arkansas and Alaska — where Republicans are running for seats held by Democrats — the GOP candidates are military veterans and focusing much of their time extolling their expertise.

A thirst among many conservative activists for a more muscular U.S. foreign policy was clear over the weekend at a meeting of Americans for Prosperity, the tea-party-affiliated group backed by the billionaire oil tycoon Charles Koch. The loudest applause came when Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, a potential presidential candidate, called for bombing the Islamic State "back to the Stone Age."

Even Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., a leader of the GOP's anti-interventionist wing who is seen as a top-tier contender for the 2016 presidential nomination, has joined in the calls for a more hawkish approach.

The GOP's changing tenor on foreign policy underscores the extent to which the party continues to struggle to forge its identity in the wake of the George W. Bush presidency.

Libertarian-leaning conservatives gained momentum in part by criticizing the Iraq War and the growth of government on Bush's watch in the form of the National Security Agency's aggressive use of domestic surveillance.

Their heightened clout led to clashes with prominent GOP hawks such as Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who openly challenged Paul's worldview as weak and dangerous.

The tensions came to a head last year, when a measure to curtail the NSA's data collection was narrowly defeated in the GOP-led House and served as a warning to Republican officials that the Paul wing was ascendant inside Congress and willing to challenge the party's long-held positions on matters of foreign policy and national security.

Now, with a series of competitive Senate races poised to determine control of the chamber and the GOP facing a wide-open



Brown



Cotton



Cruz



Paul



Perry

contest for its presidential nomination, growing public unease with the U.S. role in the world is prompting many Republicans to revert to a more familiar, anti-isolationist stance.

Not only are Republicans calling broadly for aggressive actions against the Islamic State, they are also accusing President Barack Obama of failing to stand up to Russian President Vladimir Putin and not doing enough to stand by Israel amid its recent fighting with Hamas.

New polling illustrates the shifting currents in the GOP — with concern about U.S. engagement in the world rising sharply over the past year and party members increasingly alarmed at the Obama administration's policies.

According to a Pew Research Center poll released last week, 46 percent of Republicans said the United States does "too little" to help solve global problems — a 28-point increase from the previous poll, last November. The percentage of Republicans who believe the U.S. does "too much" abroad has dropped from 52 percent to 37 percent.

"Things are moving back in that [hawkish] direction, reflecting the mood of most Americans who are angry at what they're seeing," said Brian Walsh, a former adviser to the National Republican Senatorial Committee. "Candidates are responding to that, and it is a product of the atmospherics."

William Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard and a leading pro-interventionist voice on the right, said Republicans are moving back to their "inner hawkishness." He said that some in the party had been "a little intimidated for a while..." by the so-called libertarian movement... but that GOP candidates are now showing a greater willingness to extend their foreign policy statements beyond mere attacks on Obama.

"What happens me is that [candidates] are going beyond that criticism and talking about the need for a different approach, about how we can't freak out when someone mentions potentially putting boots on the ground," Kristol said.

Recent moves by Paul illustrate how some top Republicans are still searching for the party's foreign policy sweet spot.

Two months ago, the Kentucky senator, who had been a vocal critic of the war in Iraq, wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed, criticizing advocates for expanding the U.S. troop presence on the ground there and deploying airstrikes. He wrote that "many of those clamoring for military action now are the same people who made

every false assumption imaginable about the cost, challenge and purpose of the Iraq war."

But with the Islamic State taking center stage in recent days, Paul has started to sound more sympathetic to an interventionist policy.

"If I were president, I would call a joint session of Congress. I would lay out the reasserting of why ISIS is a threat to our national security and seek congressional authorization to destroy ISIS militarily," Paul said in a statement released by his office.

Doug Stafford, a Paul adviser, said Wednesday that the senator was never an isolationist or non-interventionist. Stafford pointed to an article published this week in the Federalist, a conservative news website, titled "Why Calling Rand Paul an Isolationist Is and Was Stupid," as a summary of Paul's view on the kerfuffle over his worldview. The article says that "preferring a smaller international military footprint is hardly isolationism."

Several party strategists said that this year's midterms have offered an opportunity for the GOP

to at least present the appearance of a unified front on foreign affairs.

In Iowa, GOP Senate candidate Joni Ernst, a lieutenant colonel in the Iowa National Guard, has recommended voters that she would be the first female combat veteran to serve in the U.S. Senate. She recently took two weeks off from campaigning to complete her annual training. She has also discussed her own experience with sexual violence in the military and told ABC News last month that she would have supported "leaving additional troops in Iraq longer."

In Arkansas, Republican Senate candidate Tom Cotton, an Army veteran, recently aired an ad showing him in fatigues with a somber narration on how "serious times demand serious leaders."

Former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, a retired Army National Guard colonel running for Senate in New Hampshire, has also turned intently to foreign policy in recent weeks, hosting a forum on "America's leadership standing in the world" alongside McCain and sharply criticizing

Obama.

A reckoning looms immediately after the midterms, when the presidential primary scramble begins.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, for instance, has attached himself squarely with the pro-interventionist wing, criticizing those in his party who favor less military involvement at a time of rising Islamic extremism.

Perry warned the activists gathered for the Americans for Prosperity meeting that "America has to act to confront this evil, because if we don't, the price is only going to go up from here."

Grass-roots favorite Ben Carson, a doctor-turned-political activist, drew cheers when he declared, "When we get through with ISIS, it should be IS-was."

The opening for a hawk in the GOP field has even enticed former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, who advocated for a muscular foreign policy during the George W. Bush administration, to consider a White House bid. Bolton's political action committee have raised millions, and he visited Florida in August to stump for state Republicans.

The re-emergence of the hawks is no doubt a response to the feelings of conservative activists such as Nancy Sternman, a grandmother and business owner who attended the Koch group's meeting.

"ISIS, aglobal economy, military security, Obamacare — there's a new crisis every week that adds to the frustration of the American people," she said. "But, thankfully, people are waking up."

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## MIDEAST

# Hagel: More than 100 Americans fighting with Islamic State

By JAMES ROSEN

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday that more than 100 Americans are fighting with Islamic State militants, the first time the Pentagon chief has put a number on U.S. citizens aiding the terrorists.

Hagel cited the Americans aiding the jihadists to illustrate the threat that the Islamic State poses to the United States.

"We are aware of over 100 U.S. citizens who have U.S. passports who are fighting in the Middle East with ISIL forces," Hagel told CNN, using the U.S. government's preferred acronym for the Islamic State. "There may be more. We don't know."

U.S. intelligence officials have said that as many as 300 Americans may have joined forces with the Islamic State. They are among thousands of Westerners believed to be fighting alongside the militants.

Hagel spoke after U.S. analysts verified as real a video released Tuesday showing the beheading of reporter Steven Sotloff, the second American journalist slain in such a gruesome manner, following the slaying of James Foley, a video of which was posted Aug. 19.

"It makes you sick to your

stomach, but it again reminds you of the brutality and barbarism that is afoot in some places in the world," Hagel said.

Vice President Joe Biden used stronger words Wednesday during a speech in Portsmouth, N.H. "When people harm Americans, we don't retreat, we don't forget," Biden said. "We take care of those who are grieving."

His voice rising to almost a shout, Biden added: "And when that's finished, they should know we will follow them to the gates of hell until they are brought to justice — because hell is where they will reside. Hell is where they will reside."

President Barack Obama employed more restrained language in making a similar point.

"Those who make the mistake of harming Americans will learn that we will not forget that our reach is long and that justice will be served," Obama told reporters in the Estonian capital of Tallinn. Obama was to join other allied leaders Thursday and Friday at a NATO summit in Wales.

In the videos released by the Islamic State, the black-shrouded figures who beheaded Foley and Sotloff spoke with a British accent. About 500 Britons are believed to be fighting with the group, along with hundreds more from France, Russia and other European countries.

## Al-Qaida leader says it has expanded into India

By TIM SULLIVAN  
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Promising to "storm your barricades with cars packed with gunpowder," al-Qaida announced Tuesday it had created an Indian branch that the terror network would bring Islamic rule to the entire subcontinent.

The announcement by al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri brought few signs of increased security in India even after the government ordered states to be on alert. Instead, al-Zawahiri's announcement by online video appeared directed more at his own rivals in the international jihad movement, analysts said.

"This is really very personal," said Fawaz Gerges, a Middle East expert at the London School of Economics. "You cannot understand this movement without understanding the fierce rivalry between Islamic State and al-Qaida central."

Al-Qaida has been increasingly overshadowed by the Islamic State group, a renegade al-Qaida offshoot that was expelled amid internal divisions and that has gone on to capture vast territory in Syria and Iraq, including oil wells and other income-generating re-

sources, and has inspired thousands of fighters to join its jihadist mission. Al-Zawahiri, in turn, has found his own influence pale beside that of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

In India, where terror threats largely have come from Pakistan and Kashmir, the disputed Himalayan region where al-Qaida's influence is thought to be minimal, many derided the creation of the group — Qaedar al-Jihad in the Indian Subcontinent — as a publicity stunt.

Al-Qaida "is struggling for its legitimacy in the eyes of the radicalized Muslim world," said Ajai Sahni, an Indian security analyst with the New Delhi-based Institute for Conflict Management.

"Osama bin Laden has been killed and (al-Qaida's) entire top leadership, apart from Pakistan and a few others, one by one have been decimated by the American drone attacks," he said. "This statement is meaningless."

But Gerges noted al-Qaida has long tried to nurture as many cells as possible, using affiliates in places like Yemen and East Africa to take pressure off relentless American attacks on its core operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



PHOTOS BY ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

A group of armed men gather at Syria's Quneitra border crossing Aug. 29 between Syrian- and Israeli-controlled parts of the Golan Heights.

# Israel worries with Syrian al-Qaida on its doorstep

By DANIEL ESTRIN  
The Associated Press

MEROM GOLAN, Golan Heights — For the first time in the Syrian civil war, al-Qaida fighters are hunkered down on Israel's doorstep, and Israelis in the lush, hilly Golan Heights who have long considered Syrian President Bashar Assad their bitter foe are now worried about something more ominous — that they could become the militants' next target.

The push into the Golan by the Nusra Front, as al-Qaida's branch in Syria is known, comes just two weeks after Israel ended a 50-day war against Hamas on its southern border with the Gaza Strip, giving the conflict-weary nation another cause for concern.

Israelis in the Golan have grown accustomed to hearing the sound of distant battles between rival forces in Syria's civil war.

But last week's seizure of the strategic Quneitra border crossing by a mix of rebels — including the Nusra Front, fighters of the Western-backed Free Syrian Army and others — has created an unprecedented situation that has brought the extremists to within just a few yards of Israeli positions.

The Syrian government is "not our cup of tea," said Gabi Kuniel, an Israeli who tends vineyards recently damaged by mortar shells when the violence spilled over to the Israeli-held side of the strategic Golan Heights.

But "we prefer that the Syrian army controls this region and not a group of radical al-Qaida Muslim people," he said Wednesday, sitting behind a concrete struc-



Israeli soldiers secure an area Aug. 27 where a mortar fired during clashes between Syrian rebels and President Bashar Assad's forces in the Quneitra province hit in a community in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

ture near his fields to stay out of the line of fire.

As he spoke, heavy machine-gun fire could be heard in the distance. Earlier, a plume of smoke rose from the Syrian side of the frontier fence.

For the past three years, Israelis in the Golan have had a relatively safe front seat view of the civil war as Syrian government forces battled rebels attempting to wrest control of the area.

But now the Nusra Front and the other rebels move around in camouflaged trucks and on foot with guns slung over their shoulders, in some cases just 50 yards away from Israeli military outposts and Israeli farmers' fields. Some Israelis are convinced it's a matter of time before the Islamic radicals set their sights on them.

"They'll come at us in the end, I

have no doubt," said Yehiel Gadis, 56, peering through a small pair of binoculars at an Israeli lookout point across from Syria's Quneitra crossing.

"The entire Arab world is furious with us," said his friend, Yigal Bashan, 57.

The two men, who live in central Israel, were on a sightseeing trip in the region and were among some two dozen curiosity seekers who stopped at the lookout.

Israel captured the Golan, a plateau overlooking northern Israel, from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. It later annexed the area, a move that has never been recognized internationally. Since the aftermath of the subsequent 1973 war, U.N. monitors have helped to enforce a stable truce and the area has been tense but generally quiet.



## NATION

# Violence rocks Tenn. detention center where 32 escaped

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A violent disturbance broke out involving more than 20 teens at the same Nashville juvenile detention center where more than 30 escaped earlier this week.

About 28 teens — some of whom had also escaped during Monday's massive breakout — were involved in the latest incident that began Wednesday night, Tennessee Department of Children's Services spokesman Rob Johnson said. The teens had gotten out of their dorm and were roaming the campus.

Video shot by Nashville station WTVF showed teens chasing and assaulting a man who appeared to be a staff member at the detention center. Photos published by Nashville newspaper The Tennessean showed teens in the detention center carrying sticks. One photo showed someone spraying a fire extinguisher.

Two staff members at the center suffered minor injuries, Johnson said.

Teams from the Tennessee Department of Correction, who are trained to handle uprisings, entered the detention center early Thursday and took the teens into custody. Ten ringleaders of the

incident were identified and were taken to another detention center, Johnson said. The rest were returned to their dorms.

While the teens were outside their dorms, police formed a ring around the detention center's perimeter fence to make sure no one escaped.

Thirty-two teens escaped from the detention center Monday night. Officials said they had kicked out metal panels under the windows in common areas of their dorms to reach the courtyard and slipped out under a weak spot in the perimeter fence. Six of them remained at large.

Johnson said the same panels kicked out during the Monday escape were kicked out again to get to the yard Wednesday night. Officials have begun repairing and reinforcing the panels and will try to get concrete put at the bottom of the perimeter fence, Johnson said.

The detention center has a long history of violence, allegations of sexual abuse and previous efforts to escape. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice ranked Woodland Hills as 13th in the country among juvenile facilities where there had been reports of sexual abuse by staffers.



John Locher/AP

## Wage protest

Protesters chant for increased wages and union rights at fast food restaurants Thursday in Las Vegas in the latest attempt to escalate their efforts to get McDonald's, Burger King and other fast-food companies to pay their employees at least \$15 an hour.

# Source feds to investigate Ferguson police practices

By ERIC TUCKER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department plans to open a wide-ranging civil rights investigation into the practices of the Ferguson, Mo., Police Department following the shooting last month of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer in the St. Louis suburb, a person briefed on the matter said Wednesday night.

The person said the investigation could be announced as early as Thursday afternoon. Missouri officials were notified Wednesday of the probe.

The investigation will look at the practices in the past few years of the police department, including patterns of stops, arrests and use-of-force, as well as the training the officers receive,

the person said.

The inquiry is separate from an ongoing civil rights investigation the Justice Department is conducting into the shooting of Michael Brown, 18, by Officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9. A local grand jury is also investigating the shooting, which set off about two weeks of unrest in the streets of Ferguson and became a flash point in the national discussion of police treatment of minorities across the country. Attorney General Eric Holder two weeks ago visited the St. Louis suburb, where he met with investigators and Brown's parents and shared his own personal experiences of having been mistreated by the police.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation, first reported by The Washington Post, had not yet

been announced.

Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson did not immediately return a call seeking comment about the Justice Department investigation.

Police have said the shooting followed a scuffle that broke out after Wilson told Brown and a friend to move out of the street and onto a sidewalk. Police say Wilson was pushed into his squad car and physically assaulted. Some witnesses have reported seeing Brown's arms up in the air before the shooting in an act of surrender.

The new investigation, though, goes far beyond the circumstances of the shooting. It will look at the actions of a police department that is predominantly white even though Ferguson is about 70 percent black.

# Police agencies use tech to ID troubled officers

By TAMI ABDOLLAH

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police departments across the U.S. are using technology to try to identify problem officers before their misbehavior harms innocent people, embarrasses their employers, or invites costly lawsuits — from citizens or the federal government.

While such "early warning systems" are often treated as a cure-all, experts say, little research exists on their effectiveness or — more importantly — if they're even being used properly.

During the past decade, such systems have become the gold standard in accountability policing with a computerized system used by at least 39 percent of law enforcement agencies, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The issue of police-community relations was thrust into the spotlight after an officer fatally shot Michael Brown in Missouri. Since then, departments have held public forums to build trust with residents. Some are testing cameras mounted to officers to monitor their interactions with the public.

Experts say the early warning system can be another powerful

tool to help officers do their jobs and improve relations, but it is only as good as the people and departments using it.

"It's not a guarantee that you will catch all of those officers that are struggling," said Jim Bueermann of the nonprofit Police Foundation, which is dedicated to better policing. "These systems are designed to give you a forewarning of problems and then you have to do something."

The aim is to avoid cases in which the first evidence of a troubled officer is a YouTube video showing them excessively beating a suspect. Such incidents stoke public fears about police and can result in huge monetary settlements.

The systems track factors such as how often officers are involved in shootings, get complaints, use sick days and get into car accidents. When officers hit a specific threshold, they're supposed to be flagged and supervisors notified so appropriate training or counseling can be assigned.

Some law enforcement agencies adopted the systems under agreements they entered into with the federal government after officers were accused of abuse, including departments in Seattle, which is currently working to implement such a system, and Los Angeles,

By KEVIN MCGILL

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — It was a rare loss for gay-marriage supporters — one that even the judge who issued the ruling acknowledged won't be the final word.

"Clearly, many other courts will have an opportunity to take up the issue of same-sex marriage; courts of appeals and, at some point, the U.S. Supreme Court," U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman wrote in upholding Louisiana's ban on same-sex marriage — and its refusal to recognize same-sex marriages performed legally in other states.

"The decision of this Court is but one studied decision among many."

Feldman's ruling Wednesday was the first to uphold a state ban since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act last year.

Gay-marriage supporters had won more than 20 consecutive rulings overturning bans in other states. They said they would take the Louisiana case to the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which already has before it an appeal by the state of Texas of another federal

judge's ruling that struck down that state's gay marriage ban.

In 2004, 78 percent of Louisiana voters approved an amendment to the state constitution banning gay marriage. Gay marriage is legal in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Feldman said gay-marriage supporters failed to prove the ban violates equal-protection or due-process provisions of the U.S. Constitution. He also rejected an argument that the ban violated the First Amendment by effectively forcing legally married gay couples to state that they are single on Louisiana income tax returns.

AP Photo/Chris Wedel

## NATION

## CAMPING: IN VEGAS?

Hitching up an RV near the Strip is a spectacle in itself

By JOHN M. GLIONNA  
Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS — Canadians Harley and Linda Sponagle are in the midst of a cross-continental camping adventure, navigating 15,000 miles of blue highway across North America before ending where they began, in Nova Scotia.

Their 1995 Pleasure Way van with the "Visit Labrador" decal has stopped at 69 campsites in two nations, most of them bucolic oases with green grass, wild animals and peaceful vibes.

But not this one.

The Sponagles recently landed in the KOA campground on the Las Vegas Strip. The place represents one of the most bizarre accommodations in Sin City, offering wayfarers a place to park their road-weary behemoths within walking distance of a galaxy of gambling temples and their nonstop street scene.

The couple anchored on an ocean of asphalt in the Circus Circus parking lot, an expanse dotted by a few forlorn olive trees that seemed to gasp for breath in the 110-degree heat, too weary to offer any shade. The day was so infernal that one visiting kid ran across the lot toward

the pool chanting "Ouch-ouch-ouch" even though his feet were protected by flip-flops.

Many nights, police sirens wail as this city's particular brand of wildlife wanders over from the 24-hour strip



PHOTOS BY FRANCINE ORR, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Modesto, Calif., residents Carlos Meza, left, and Isabela Meza unload their bikes as they set up camp for the night at the KOA campground on the Las Vegas Strip. In late September, the camp will lose its lease with Circus-Circus, which has other development plans that have sent KOA officials looking for a new site.

**'The Vegas philosophy has changed. ... The way we implode our history, people will soon forget there ever was a KOA on the Strip.'**

Oscar Goodman  
former mayor of Las Vegas

joints nearby. The dawn brings the hammering chop-chop of the first helicopters leaving for Grand Canyon tours.

Despite all this, the Sponagles are two happy campers. Harley says he'd trade a possible case of poison ivy for a go at a slot machine any day.

"This is our favorite stop on the whole trip," said the 65-year-old retired electrician, a native of Mount Unisco, a woody town of about 3,500. "The staff are just top-notch."

He gazed over his shoulder. "And then there's this." On the horizon towered the 1,149-foot-tall Stratosphere.

There are no stately sequoias, no towering cliffs. But the looming hotels along

the Strip and their 160,000-odd rooms make for a Grand Canyon of frolic.

"It's a campground right on the Strip," said Terry Shade, vice president of company-owned properties for Campgrounds of America. "You can underline that and take it to the bank."

But not for long.

In late September, the camp will lose its lease with Circus Circus, which plans to clear the land for an outdoor festival area. Casino officials say they haven't ruled out a smaller renovated RV park for the future that would open seasonally. Meanwhile, KOA, whose familiar yellow and red logo can be spotted at campgrounds across the

country, is looking for a new local site.

Many Vegas observers rue the change, criticizing this city's quick amnesia for the past. Even onetime Mayor Oscar Goodman, an indefatigable cheerleader for everything Las Vegas, finds fault with KOA's departure from the Strip.

"The Vegas philosophy has changed," Goodman said. "Now the bottom line really counts. And all those with nostalgia need to step aside. The way we implode our history, people will soon forget there ever was a KOA on the Strip."

For now, the campground remains busy as RVs of all shapes and sizes roll up to the check-in building, which is topped by a circus tent theme. On a recent weekend, the vehicles were lined up — a Four Winds, Leprechaun and Minnie-Winnie next to a Sightseer and Fleetwood RV with the Twenty Bird cartoon character on the spare tire cover.

There are no tent sites here, just a few football fields of hard-as-rock tarmac where on the hottest days rubber tires melt on their rims. Those campground guests without wheels who still crave the outdoor experience can rent one of two art-deco Airstream campers that look like silver toasters baking in the sun.

During the summer months, the campsite's 400 spaces are populated by mostly foreign visitors who rent RVs for cross-country tours. On a recent day there was a family from Israel dashing toward the pool for a midday swim and a couple from Switzerland, who parked here because "it's the place RVs come to sleep."

And there was Ivo Steenhuisen, 46, a Dutch tourist who was lucky enough to land a space near one of the few trees. He and his teenage daughter walked a stretch of tarmac that seemed more like a hillock across Venus.

"It's convenient — you can walk to the soul of the Strip," he said. "But my kids are already complaining about the heat. This must be the hottest place in the world. It's like hell."

Sponagle says the friendly staff makes up for the dreadful heat.

"You can't get any better. At night, we sat in our chairs waving at people like we're old neighbors."



Located on a corner of the Circus-Circus parking lot, the KOA campground is one of the most bizarre accommodations in Sin City.

## NATION



New York teenager Joseph Beer smoked about \$20 worth of marijuana before getting into this Subaru Impreza with four friends in October 2012 and driving over 100 mph before crashing into trees with such force that it split the car in half. As states liberalize their marijuana laws, public officials and safety advocates worry that more stoned drivers will lead to a spike in traffic deaths.

# 'Speed and weed': A risky combination?

## Marijuana's contribution to highway deaths remains hazy

By JOAN LOWY  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York teenager Joseph Beer smoked marijuana, climbed into a Subaru Impreza with four friends and drove more than 100 mph before losing control. The car crashed into trees with such force that the vehicle split in half, killing his friends.

Beer, who was 17 in October 2012 when the crash occurred, pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide and was sentenced last week to 5 years to 15 years in prison.

As states liberalize their marijuana laws, public officials and safety advocates worry there will be more stoned drivers and a big increase in traffic deaths. It's not clear, though, whether those concerns are merited. Researchers are divided on the question. A prosecutor blamed the Beer crash on "speed and weed," but a jury that heard expert testimony on marijuana's effects at his trial deadlocked on a homicide charge and other felonies related to whether the teenager was impaired by marijuana. Beer was convicted of manslaughter and reckless driving charges.

Studies of marijuana's effects show that the drug can slow decision-making, decrease peripheral vision and impede multitasking, all of which are important driving skills. But unlike with alcohol, drivers who have consumed mari-

**"We don't know enough about the scope of marijuana-impaired driving to call it a big or small problem. But anytime a driver has their ability impaired, it is a problem."**

Jonathan Adkins  
Governors Highway Safety Association

juana tend to be aware that they are impaired and try to compensate by driving slowly, avoiding risky actions such as passing other cars, and allowing extra room between vehicles.

On the other hand, combining marijuana with alcohol appears to eliminate the pot smoker's exaggerated caution and to increase driving impairment beyond the effects of either substance alone.

"We see the legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington as a wake-up call for all of us in highway safety," said Jonathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, which represents state highway safety officials.

"We don't know enough about the scope of marijuana-impaired driving to call it a big or small problem. But anytime a driver has

their ability impaired, it is a problem."

In Washington, there was a jump of nearly 25 percent in drivers testing positive for marijuana in 2013 — the first full year after legalization — but no corresponding increase in car accidents or fatalities.

Dr. Mehmet Sofuoglu, a Yale University Medical School expert on drug abuse who testified at Beer's trial, said studies of marijuana and crash risk are "highly inconclusive." Some studies show a two- or three-fold increase, while others show none, he said. Some studies even showed less risk if someone was marijuana-positive, he testified.

Teenage boys and young men are the most likely drivers to smoke pot and the most likely drivers to have an accident regardless of whether they're high, he said.

"Being a teenager, a male teenager, and being involved in reckless behavior could explain both at the same time — not necessarily marijuana causing getting into accidents, but a general reckless behavior leading to both conditions at the same time," Sofuoglu told jurors. Inexperienced pot smokers are likely to be more impaired than habitual smokers, who develop a tolerance. Some studies show virtually no driving impairment in habitual smokers.

Two recent studies that used similar data to assess crash risk came to opposite conclusions.

### Marijuana behind the wheel: What to know

The legalization of recreational marijuana in two states — Colorado and Washington — and medical marijuana in more than 20 others has raised concern that there will be more drivers stoned behind the wheel. What's not clear is whether that will translate into an increase in fatal crashes. Five things to know about marijuana and driving:

**1 WHAT WE KNOW**  
While marijuana users can perform simple tasks well while they are high, brain imaging has shown they have to use more of their brain to do so. Their reaction times are slower, peripheral vision is decreased and multitasking impeded. As a result, when sudden or surprising things occur to complicate those tasks — such as when a pedestrian steps in front of a car — they cannot respond as well. On the other hand, marijuana users tend to be aware they are impaired and try to compensate for it.

**2 WHAT WE DON'T KNOW**  
It's not clear how much marijuana use contributes to crash risk. Some studies have found that marijuana can double crash risk, but others have found virtually no increase.

**3 HOW HIGH IS TOO HIGH?**  
Traces of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, can be detected in the blood of some habitual marijuana users days or weeks after they last used the drug, making it hard to use blood tests to discern a current level of impairment. Most states haven't set a THC threshold for impairment, but Colorado and Washington have settled on an intoxication blood level of 5 parts per billion. There's no roadside test for THC like those for alcohol, but some states are experimenting with a saliva test.

**4 REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE**  
In 2013, the first full year after Washington state legalized pot, nearly 25 percent more drivers tested positive for marijuana than before legalization. But there has been no corresponding jump in accidents or arrests for intoxicated driving. A University of Colorado Medical School study found that the number of deaths involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes in Colorado who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled between 1990 and 2011. A National Safety Council study looked at the prevalence of drivers involved in fatal crashes who tested positive for marijuana in 12 states from 1992 to 2009, before and after implementing medical marijuana laws. Only three states showed an increase — California, Hawaii and Washington — and those appeared to be a one-time increase possibly associated with differences in testing.

**5 WHAT NEXT?**  
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is conducting research to get a better idea of how pot affects driving. NHTSA and Washington state officials have also learned up to assess changes in marijuana use by drivers before and after the state allowed retail sale of the drug, with results due next year.

— Joan Lowy



## NATION

By TONY PERRY  
Los Angeles Times

**B**attered by controversy over its treatment of killer whales, SeaWorld San Diego announced Aug. 15 that it plans to double the size of its orca environment, contribute an additional \$10 million to research on the species and establish an independent advisory committee of scientists to oversee its orca program.

Called the Blue World Project, the new orca environment will be nearly double the size of the current facility, covering 1.5 acres at 50 feet deep and 350 feet in length.

The new pool will allow visitors to see the orcas from a vantage point below the water line, SeaWorld officials said in an announcement.

The new space, described as the first of its kind, is slated to be completed by 2018, officials said. SeaWorld parks at Orlando, Fla., and San Antonio, Texas, will follow with similar projects, officials said.

"Through up-close and personal encounters, the new environment will transform how visitors experience killer whales," said Jim Atchison, chief executive officer and president of SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.

SeaWorld San Diego has 10 orcas. The cost of the new habitat for them was not released.

"Our guests will be able to walk alongside the whales as if they were at the shore, watch them interact at the depths found in the ocean, or a birds-eye view from above," Atchison added.

The advisory group, whose goal is to maximize the "health and well-being" of SeaWorld's orcas, will include an emeritus professor at the University of California, Davis veterinary school, a researcher at University of California, Santa Cruz, a physiologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, and others.

The additional \$10 million will support projects sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration into the hearing, reproduction and nutrition of orcas in the wild.

The new plans did not impress a main critic of SeaWorld's orca program, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which has called for the orcas to be put in large-scale ocean sanctuaries.

"This is a desperate drop-in-the-bucket move to try to turn back the clock at a time when people understand the suffering of captive orcas, and it will not save the company," said the group's director of animal law, Jared Goodman. "A bigger prison is still a prison."

The announcement was also clearly meant to influence both the public and Wall Street.

The announcement, complete with statements of support from local elected officials, comes during a week in which SeaWorld's economic picture took a nosedive and doubts were raised on Wall Street that it can recover from the controversy sparked by the documentary "Blackfish," which condemned the parks' treatment

# Controversy-sea

## Amid 'Blackfish' backlash, SeaWorld set to expand orca environments



PHOTOS BY DON BARTLETT, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

SeaWorld San Diego visitors view a killer whale through a window at the park earlier this month. SeaWorld announced that it plans to double the size of the killer whale environments at its parks.



Orca whales swim in a pool with trainers before a performance at SeaWorld San Diego.

**'... Grateful to SeaWorld for the investment in these new facilities. The changes they're announcing will enhance the experience for the animals, workers and visitors of the park.'**

Todd Gloria  
San Diego City Council president

**'This is a desperate drop-in-the-bucket move to try to turn back the clock at a time when people understand the suffering of captive orcas, and it will not save the company. A bigger prison is still a prison.'**

Jared Goodman  
director of animal law for PETA



Shamu Stadium is packed with spectators at SeaWorld San Diego on Aug. 14.

of orcas.

On Aug. 13, shares of SeaWorld Entertainment Inc., which has 11 theme parks, dropped 33 percent after the company's earnings missed Wall Street expectations.

The Orlando, Fla.-based company also conceded for the first time that attendance at its theme parks has been hurt by negative publicity caused by a drumbeat from animal-activists about the alleged maltreatment of the orcas.

At SeaWorld San Diego, the orca show at Shamu Stadium has long been the marquee attraction.

The company reported 6.6 million visitors at its parks in the April-to-June period, nearly flat compared with the same period in 2013.

Net income was \$37 million, or 43 cents a share. Analysts had expected 60 cents a share.

Sales fell 1 percent to \$405.2 million.

On Aug. 14, Standard & Poor's lowered SeaWorld Entertainment's credit rating to BB- from BB, pushing the rate further below investment grade, also known as junk bonds.

"The negative outlook reflects our belief that the company faces significant challenges regarding reputational risk and potential improvements in operating performance beyond 2014," Standard & Poor's said in a statement.

Standard & Poor's cited "negative media reports that have specifically targeted the company's use of orca whales for entertainment purposes" as contributing to lower attendance and spending at the parks.

A bill by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica, Calif.), now stalled in the state legislature, would ban the park from breeding its orcas or using them for "entertainment."

The bill this spring was sent by an Assembly committee for "interim study," an ill-defined process that could take a year or longer.

SeaWorld officials insist the breeding program helps researchers study the orcas' estrous cycles and gestation, and also "enriches the lives of our animals by allowing them to experience, interact with and help raise another member of their pod."

Located on city property, SeaWorld San Diego attracts 4.4 million people a year and pays rent of more than \$14 million a year to the city.

During the summer, the park employs 4,500 workers, putting it in league with Qualcomm, Northrop-Grumman and the Navy as a major San Diego employer.

Despite the controversy, political support for SeaWorld remains strong in San Diego. Earlier this year, the city council voted to proclaim March as SeaWorld Month to celebrate the park's 50th anniversary.

In a statement included with the announcement, city council president Todd Gloria said he is "grateful to SeaWorld for the investment in these new facilities. The changes they're announcing today will enhance the experience for the animals, workers, and visitors of the park."

*I love my...*

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## WORLD

# Could blood of Ebola survivors help patients?

By MARIA CHENG  
The Associated Press

LONDON — As West Africa struggles to contain the biggest ever outbreak of Ebola, some experts say an unusual but simple treatment might help: the blood of survivors.

The evidence is mixed for using infection-fighting antibodies from survivors' blood for Ebola, but without any licensed drugs or vaccines for the deadly disease, some say it's worth a shot.

"This is something that's fairly simple to do," said Dr. Peter Piot, director of London's School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the co-discoverer of the Ebola virus.

Using blood of survivors is one of the experimental Ebola treatments under discussion at a two-day meeting that began Thursday in Geneva.

The more than 200 experts assembled by the World Health Organization are looking at issues of safety and effectiveness and considering which treatments should be prioritized for testing during the current outbreak.

There are about a half dozen medicines and vaccines in development. None has been rigorously tested in humans but early testing of one vaccine began this

week in the United States.

Much attention has focused on the untested drug ZMapp, which was given to seven patients, two of whom died. But the limited supply is now exhausted and its developer says it will take months to make even a modest amount.

In contrast, WHO's blood network, an international group of blood regulators, noted there are thousands of survivors from past Ebola outbreaks in Africa who could be tapped as a source of survivor blood.

The group recently issued a paper on how the strategy might be used. It said blood from survivors should be considered experimental and it recommended studies be done during the outbreak.

Some scientists think antibodies in the blood of Ebola survivors could help patients infected with the deadly disease. Antibodies are produced by the body's immune system to fight off harmful things like viruses; they remain in the blood ready to fight off any future infections by the same foreign substance.

Piot said it is vital to find out if the blood treatment is effective.

"I hope this is the last Ebola outbreak where all we have is isolation, quarantine and supportive care to treat patients," he said.

Experts say blood from survivors could be collected and processed for multiple patients, or a survivor could donate blood to an individual patient. Both methods require screening the blood for diseases like HIV or malaria.



DAK YASIN/AP

Kashmiri residents struggle to withstand strong currents while wading through floodwaters while trying to move to safer places in Srinagar, India, on Thursday. At least 100 villages across the Kashmir valley were flooded by overflowing lakes and rivers, in the worst flooding in 22 years caused by heavy rains.

## Bus swept away by flooded stream in Kashmir; at least 70 are missing

By ALIAZ HUSSAIN  
The Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — An overcrowded bus carrying wedding guests was swept away Thursday by a flooded stream in the Indian-held portion of Kashmir and about 70 people were missing, a state official said.

Rescuers were searching for the bus but had not been able to locate it in the gushing waters, said Shantmanu, who uses one name.

The passengers were on their way to a wedding ceremony in a village in the Rajouri region, about 110 miles southwest of Srinagar, the main city in the Indian-held portion of Kashmir.

The bus reportedly had a capacity of only 54 people. Shantmanu said rescue efforts were being hampered by heavy rain

and strong currents.

The region's wedding season has been disrupted by heavy rains and the worst floods in 22 years, and many ceremonies have been postponed.

At least 14 people have died in the past two days, and authorities closed schools and colleges and stopped train services in the area on Thursday. Meteorologists said the heavy rains were likely to continue for another two days.

Police officer Imtiyaz Hussain

said the 14 victims were swept away by floodwaters or buried by mud from mountain slopes. They included a paramilitary officer whose bunker collapsed on him.

Soldiers and rescue workers used boats to move thousands of people to higher ground. At least 100 villages across the Kashmir valley were flooded by overflowing lakes and rivers, including the Jhelum river, which was up to 4 feet above its danger level, officials said.

## 'My Ultimate Bucket List' scratched as title of Malaysia Airlines promo

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia Airlines has scrapped the title of a competition asking people what activities and destinations are on their "bucket list," acknowledging it was inappropriate given the two deadly disasters it has suffered this year.

A bucket list is a term used by some to describe a list of adventures they want to have before they die.

The "My Ultimate Bucket List Campaign" asked customers to come up with suggestions, the best of which would win prizes including flights on the airline.

All references to the bucket list have been scrubbed from the airline's website but cached copies of the competition's terms and con-

ditions are still visible in Google searches.

A statement from Malaysia Airlines said the contest in Australia and New Zealand was launched online Monday, but removed the next day after public criticism.

The title was "found to be inappropriate at this point of time," it said Thursday. "The airline appreciates and respects the sentiments of the public and in no way did it intend to offend any parties."

A Malaysia Airlines jet with 239 people on board went missing March 8 while en route to Beijing and no trace of it has been found. In July, a Malaysia Airlines jet was shot down over Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

The airline had a good safety record before the disasters and was

once associated with high-quality service. But the twin disasters, and the airlines handling of the first one in particular, has badly damaged its brand.

The airline's majority shareholder, state investment company Khazanah, last week announced it would cut 6,000 workers at Malaysia Airlines as part of a \$1.9 billion overhaul.

Danica Weeks, whose husband was a passenger on the vanished Flight 370, told the New Zealand Herald the promotion was "atrocious" and reflected insensitivity to families of victims.

The contest was reinstated on Wednesday and will run until the end of the year but without any new title as "the focus is on the prizes," the airline said.



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## FAITH

# Seeking 'the highest bounty'

## Zeal and questions stir as evangelist opens US crusade

By MATT SEDENSKY  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — By the time the Rev. Reinhard Bonnke edges toward the stage, anticipation in the thundering arena is swelling. A crowd of thousands has been told of his decades of preaching in Africa, the tens of millions of souls he has saved, the countless healings for which he has been a conduit and the modern-day Lazarus he saw risen. The floor is vibrating, the air filled is with fog, sleek videos are flashing on massive screens.

"This is an hour of salvation," he tells the crowd. "Miami shall be saved! Florida shall be saved! America shall be saved!"

Bonnke came to the cavernous home of the Miami Heat to launch his first great American crusade, even as his name is unknown to most in this country. After what he said was a childhood call from God to preach in Africa, it took years to find legions of receptive ears on that continent. Today, German-born Bonnke, 74, is among the world's best-known faith healers, a Pentecostal minister who claims to have saved the souls of more than 72 million people in gatherings so large they've twice spurred stampedes.

On stage, he outlines no transgressions for which sinners must repent, gives no soaring evangelism and no lesson in morality. He returns repeatedly to the same simple theme, telling the faithful to turn from darkness to light, from Satan to God. When his sermon is over, he invites those ready to make a spiritual commitment to the arena's floor and a crowd amasses, arms outstretched: Some tremble and cry, some shout "hallelujah," some speak

in tongues, a few dance and one jumps up and down relentlessly.

"Jesus Christ, son of the living God. Save me now!" Bonnke screams. "Jesus! Save me now!"

Like other charismatic preachers, Bonnke has made healing a hallmark of his services, and claims those who've attended have been cured of everything from AIDS to cancer to paralysis. In the most widely-told story about him, he says he witnessed the resurrection of Daniel Ekechukwu, a Nigerian man whose wife brought his body to a church where Bonnke was appearing. Both Bonnke and the Rev. Daniel Kolenda claim, matter-of-factly, to have witnessed other resurrections, too, but they and their adherents repeatedly tell the story of Ekechukwu, saying there is so much evidence of a profound miracle that it cannot be questioned.

"It is watertight. It could not be denied. And yet people still — some people — still doubt it," Bonnke said. "Well, may God forgive them."

In Miami, Bonnke does not lead the prayers for healing. An hour after appearing, he slips off stage right with little fanfare and is replaced by Kolenda, 33, the man tapped as his successor. Kolenda serves as president at Christ for all Nations, the international ministry that Bonnke started, and has taken over the bulk of overseas crusades.

And in this night's fevered climax, Kolenda commands a litany of illnesses to be cured. Around the arena, people claim to experience healing.

Daphne Bonas, 82, said she felt a heat run through her body and is convinced her bladder cancer has been cured. Though she



ALAN DIAZ/AP

German evangelist Reinhard Bonnke stands in Miami in July. As a young minister, Bonnke said he heard the voice of God proclaim "Africa shall be saved," and for the next four decades, he made it his mission.

hadn't yet seen a doctor to verify her healing, she is convinced tests will validate a miracle.

"I'm looking forward to them telling me, 'There's nothing there and you're OK,'" she said.

June Williams, 77, came searching for a miracle too, after suffering a painful hip fracture. But she tried to walk after the healing prayers and only made it a few steps. She left in her wheelchair, and for four days afterward, was in such pain she could barely get out of bed.

"It's not that I don't believe," she said. "It's either that I'm not supposed to get better or the time has not come yet."

Belief in healings is a chief driver of the crowds to Bonnke's events, as it is for preachers including Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn, two men with whom he is closely linked. All three have been associated with the so-called prosperity gospel, which stresses God will reward the faithful with health and wealth, and all three have led ministries that have made them rich.

Bonnke lives near Palm Beach in an expansive, \$3 million Ritz-Carlton condo with prime ocean views. Though Bonnke's total compensation from Christ for all Nations was \$178,784 last year, it was down significantly from \$289,546 two years earlier, according to IRS filings. Overall, from 2006 through 2013, Christ for all Nations reported to the IRS more than \$105 million in donations.

Rusty Leonard, whose MinistryWatch analyzes religious groups' finances, said he is concerned by the number of affiliated organizations Christ for all Nations spends money on, and from which he says Bonnke is likely to receive additional income.

"It's a classic way to funnel money to yourself,"

Leonard said. "It tells you that they're working every angle."

Bonnke's crusades are free to attend and no offering was taken at the Miami event. Bonnke rejected questions about his lifestyle, saying he has just one apartment and no stocks or other investments.

"Sometimes, when God blessed me with something, I would feel guilty," he said. "Then I realized this was wrong, because a blessing is a blessing."

Bonnke said Christ does not want people's money.

he wants their hearts. And so he will bring his crusade to Greensboro, N.C., next, then to Long Island and Houston, Chicago and Pittsburgh and beyond.

He expects it will mirror his African experience, that stadiums will become too small to hold growing throngs, and that they will eventually move events to open fields. His writings are filled with numbers of those he has reached, but he refuses to limit his goal as he embarks on his American tour. He said he wants to win over everyone for Christ.

"He has a claim on all people. He doesn't speak in percentages," Bonnke said. "I will aim at the moon to reach the highest bounty."

**Reinhard Bonnke prays during his Great Gospel Crusade in Osogbo, Nigeria, in December 2001. Bonnke said he was 10 when he heard God's calling to preach in Africa.**

CHRISTINE NESBITT/AP



CHRISTINE NESBITT/AP

With his weapon slung over his chest, a policeman prays with Reinhard Bonnke for the healing of his physical ailment in December 2001 during the Great Gospel Crusade in Osogbo, Nigeria.



## FACES



The new cast of "Dancing with the Stars" was announced on "Good Morning America" on Thursday. The celebrity cast, in alphabetical order, consists of Jonathan Bennett, Tommy Chong, Randy Couture, Betsy Johnson, Lolo Jones, Bethany Mota, Janel Parrish, Alfonso Ribeiro, Sadie Robertson, Antonio Sabato Jr., Tavis Smiley, Lea Thompson and Michael Waltrip. The two-hour season premiere of the show is Sept. 16 on AFN-Spectrum.

# Let's dance!

## Lea Thompson, Tommy Chong among 'DWTS' celebrities

The Associated Press

Actress Lea Thompson, "Duck Dynasty" diva Sadie Robertson and NASCAR driver Michael Waltrip are making tracks for the new season of "Dancing with the Stars." ABC on Thursday announced the 13 contestants for its fall round of the dancing

competition. They also include talk-show host Tavis Smiley, "Pretty Little Liars" star Janel Parrish, Olympic athlete Lolo Jones, actor Antonio Sabato Jr. and fashion designer Betsy Johnson.

Other amateur hoofers include comedy veteran Tommy Chong, YouTube star Bethany Mota, Ultimate Fighting champ

Randy Couture, "Mean Girls" star Jonathan Bennett and actor-dancer Alfonso Ribeiro. The new lineup was unveiled on "Good Morning America."

The 19th season of "Dancing" premieres in the U.S. on Sept. 15 and on AFN-Spectrum a day later. Tom Bergeron and Erin Andrews return as co-hosts.

## Hanks among Kennedy Center honorees

It's a rare honor for an artist to receive accolades from the U.S. president, let alone have him sing one of your tunes.

Now Al Green can claim both, knowing that President Barack Obama is a fan. Green is among five artists receiving this year's Kennedy Center Honors, the national awards for influencing American culture through the arts, the center announced Thursday.

Tom Hanks, Sting, Lily Tomlin and ballerina Patricia McBride will also receive the honor. They will be saluted by top entertainers in a performance Dec. 7 and a reception at the White House.

## Drake gets 8 BET Hip-Hop Awards nods

For the first time, Drake tops nominees for the BET Hip-Hop Awards.

In a statement to The Associated Press, BET said Thursday that Drake received the most nominations with eight for the ninth annual awards show. It airs Oct. 14. Last year, the Canadian rapper and singer took home four awards, including the People's Champ Award.

Drake's 2013 chart-topping album, "Nothing Was the Same," had several hits from "Hold On, We're Going Home" with Majid Jordan to "Started from the Bottom." Rap veteran Snoop Dogg returns as host of the show, which will be taped Sept. 20 at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center. Jay-Z, Pharrell and Future each scored six nominations. Nicki Minaj, Rich Homie Quan and OG earned five nods apiece.



Drake

## Other news

■ Actress Rosie Perez and Republican Party media operative Nicole Wallace are joining ABC's daytime chat show "The View."

■ David Cassidy has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of driving while intoxicated in upstate New York. Sentencing was set for Nov. 5.

■ Quentin Tarantino is moving forward with "The Hateful Eight." The Weinstein Co. says it will distribute the filmmaker's latest project — a post-Civil War Western — next year in the largest 70mm release in 20 years.

■ Sony Pictures announced Wednesday that George Clooney will co-produce and direct the film version of "Hack Attack," reporter Nick Davies' book about the British prime hacking scandal.

■ Alicia Keys is preparing for a delivery at the end of the year: her second baby. The Grammy winner says she and husband, producer-rapper Swizz Beatz, know the sex of the baby, but that she's "not sharing."

From The Associated Press

## Maya Angelou's work mixed with hip-hop for album

By MESFIN FEKADU  
The Associated Press

Maya Angelou's iconic words and lyrics will blend with hip-hop beats for a new album called "Caged Bird Songs."

Shawn Rivera, the lead singer of R&B group Az Yet, and RocStarr, who co-wrote Chris Brown's "Fine China," produced the 13-song set, to be released through Smooch Music on Nov. 4.

The album — the title taken from Angelou's classic 1969 book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" — is one of the last projects Angelou completed before she died in May, her grandson said in an interview Tuesday.

"Grandma loved it from the beginning," Colin A. Johnson said of the album's concept. "These guys were inspired by grandma's work, which many people are, and felt like giving it a different medium of delivery to make it more obtainable to a larger group of people."

Rivera and RocStarr started working on the album before Angelou knew of it. Johnson, who is in charge of Angelou's estate with his father Guy B. Johnson, said once she was aware, she completely backed the project, which was recorded at her North Carolina



One of poet Maya Angelou's last projects, an album of her works set to music, will be released Nov. 4.

home. Some of the songs use previously recorded Angelou vocals, while others were recorded specifically for the project.

Johnson said Angelou's initial reaction to the songs was similar to when she first saw her own Facebook page: "She just laughed."

"She loved it and was excited to hear more about what they wanted to do," he said of the album. "She had a lot of energy around it."

Angelou won three Grammys for her spoken-word albums. She previously

released a calypso album and collaborated with Ashford & Simpson for 1996's "Been Found." She also was featured on Common's 2011 album, "The Dreamer/The Believer."

Johnson said his grandmother was a fan of hip-hop music. "She saw (hip-hop) as this generation's way of speaking and conveying a message," said Johnson, adding that Angelou had "great stories about interactions with Tupac (Shakur)."

Johnson said he hopes the album will connect Angelou's work with younger generations. It resonated with his own 13-year-old and 16-year-old children, he said.

"I don't know that they ever have picked up a book of poetry without it being assigned by either me or their school," he said of his children. "To hear somebody that is so famous for her poetry and her message, and then set to some music that you can enjoy, definitely feels like this is something that can continue her reach through generations."

Johnson and his father founded Caged Bird Legacy to launch future Angelou projects.

"There are other things coming out," he said. "You'll see a lot of other things come out with her name. ... And these are all projects that she laid out there in the works at various different levels of completion."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teen sues DMV after told to remove makeup

**SC** COLUMBIA — A 16-year-old in South Carolina sued the state's Department of Motor Vehicles because the agency won't allow him to take a driver's license photo wearing makeup.

Chase Culpepper regularly wears makeup and either androgynous or women's clothing. During a news conference at the Statehouse in Columbia, he told reporters that being ordered by officials to remove what they called a disguise was degrading.

"I left the DMV feeling humiliated," Culpepper said. "I want to be myself and have a driver's license photo that reflects that."

## LA jury convicts man of 3 serial murders

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A jury in Los Angeles convicted a career criminal in the serial strangling of three women in the 1980s in Los Angeles.

Jurors found Samuel Little, 74, guilty of three counts of first-degree murder. The three women were found nude below the waist and had been dragged into debris-strewn alleys.

Prosecutors linked the former boxer to the killings through evidence recovered at the scenes, which they compared with his DNA profile in a criminal database. In 2012, Los Angeles detectives found Little living in a shelter in Kentucky and arrested him.

During the trial, prosecutor Beth Silverman said outside court that Little is likely responsible for at least 40 killings since 1980. Authorities in California, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Mississippi and Ohio are looking for possible links.

He could face life in prison. He was scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 25.

## Student gains name as squirrel whisperer

**PA** STATE COLLEGE — A Penn State student is gaining an Internet reputation as a "squirrel whisperer" for feeding, befriending and dressing up a furry little friend she's named "Sneezy."

Junior Mary Krupa told WJAC-TV that she's able to dress up the squirrel in party hats, or get Sneezy to hold doll-sized props, simply by feeding the animal.

Krupa and Sneezy's exploits are chronicled in a Facebook page titled "Sneezy the Penn State Squirrel."

So far, the squirrel is proving quite popular as its Facebook page has more "likes" than a page dedicated to the school's official mascot, the Nittany Lion.

## School burglar leaves behind shoes, goods

**UT** TAYLORSVILLE — Authorities are trying to find a burglar who broke into a Taylorsville elementary school and later abandoned his shoes

## THE CENSUS

**\$1.1B**

The amount Halliburton has agreed to pay to settle claims involving the 2010 BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill. It could be a pay for the company and victims of the spill to avoid years of costly litigation. A federal judge still has to approve the settlement. That same judge has rulings pending on the extent to which parties, including Halliburton, were negligent in the deadly explosion of the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil rig.



SCOTT MASON, THE WINCHESTER (Va.) STAR/AP

## All paws on deck

Brooke Jackson takes Momo, an Italian Mastiff, for a swim Monday during the All Paws on Deck Pool Party of Pooches held in Jim Barnett Park in Winchester, Va.

and some stolen equipment while fleeing from officers.

Unified Police say the break-in was reported at Vista Elementary School around 6 a.m. Monday. Officers saw a man dressed in black who ran out of the school's south doors and behind the building.

Police chased the man but were unable to catch him.

## Kite dropping leads to Missouri River search

**SD** PIERRE — Authorities say a report of an object that fell from the sky resulted in a Missouri River search.

Ron Bren, of the Pierre Rescue Squad, told KCCR-AM that the object the caller couldn't quite

distinguish when it fell into the marina because it was dusk ended up being a large tissue box kite.

Bren said his squad, members of the state Game, Fish and Parks Department and the Hughes County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene.

The station reported that a boat and jet ski were dispatched to the middle of the marina where

the object had landed. Bren said a sheriff's deputy wearing a life jacket swam from shore to the object.

The kite had begun dissolving in the water, but a chunk was still on the surface.

## Strip club owner facing prostitution charges

**SC** WELLFORD — Authorities say the owner of a strip club in Spartanburg County has been charged with prostitution after dancers offered to perform sex acts for money on undercover officers.

Wellford Police Chief Jeff Bowers told local media outlets that the dancers told the undercover officers that part of the money they paid would also go to the owner of Teasers Entertainment, Timothy Treadwell, 51.

Police said they also are seeking arrest warrants against the dancers.

## Military equipment from 1916 going on display

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — If you've ever wondered how Americans waged war 100 years ago, the Illinois State Military Museum will give you a glimpse of the past.

The Springfield museum plans to display uniforms, weapons and other equipment that was used by the Illinois National Guard during a 1916 border campaign against Pancho Villa.

The Mexican revolutionary raided New Mexico, and Maj. Gen. John Pershing launched a yearlong effort to get him. Illinois guardsmen were mobilized along the Texas border.

A press release from the National Guard says the campaign was the first time the Army used airplanes and trucks.

The items will be displayed at the military museum, starting Saturday.

## Community service for Brooklyn Bridge stunt?

**NY** NEW YORK — A judge is suggesting a Russian tourist who climbed the Brooklyn Bridge be sentenced to community service — like cleaning a bridge.

Yaroslav Kolchin was arrested Sunday after he climbed to the top of the bridge to take pictures. He was charged with reckless endangerment, trespassing and disorderly conduct.

The Daily News reported that a judge said Friday she wasn't condoning Kolchin's actions but didn't think they were malicious.

Prosecutors are seeking a guilty plea to trespassing and a 90-day jail sentence.

Judge ShawnDya Simpson suggested "a bunch of community service" instead.

From wire reports





## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## CVS is renamed, halts tobacco sales

By TOM MURPHY  
The Associated Press

As CVS sharpens its focus on customer health, the nation's second-largest drugstore chain will tweak its corporate name and stop the sale of tobacco nearly a month sooner than planned.

CVS Caremark said it will now be known as CVS Health, effective immediately. The signs on its roughly 7,700 drugstores won't change, so the change may not

register with shoppers.

However, those customers will see a big change when they check out. The cigars and cigarettes that used to fill the shelves behind store cash registers have been replaced with nicotine gum and signs urging visitors to kick the tobacco habit.

A store in downtown Indianapolis also stocked free tobacco cut packs where cigarettes used to be. The red-and-white boxes, nearly the size of cigarette packs, con-

tain coupons, a card showing how much a smoker can save by quitting and a booklet with Sudoku and other games to distract someone fighting the urge to smoke.

CVS and other drugstores have delved deeper into customer health in recent years, in part to serve the aging baby boom generation and the millions of uninsured people who are expected to gain coverage under the federal health care overhaul. While competitors Walgreen Co. and Rite Aid

Corp. still sell tobacco, they've all started offering more health care products and added walk-in clinics to their stores while expanding the care they provide.

Drugstores now offer an array of vaccinations and flu shots, and many of their clinics can help monitor chronic illnesses like diabetes or high blood pressure.

"We're doing more and more to extend the front lines of health care," CVS CEO Larry Merlo said.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 5)	\$1.3464
Dollar buys (Sept. 5)	69.7427
British pound (Sept. 5)	\$1.68
Japanese yen (Sept. 5)	102.00
South Korean won (Sept. 5)	992.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6421/6.6990
Canada (Dollar)	0.9944
China (Yuan)	6.1388
Denmark (Krone)	5.7201
Egypt (Pound)	1.1525
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3011/6.7686
Hungary (Forint)	240.35
Israel (Sheqel)	7.5902
Japan (Yen)	105.06
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2854
Norway (Krone)	6.2399
Philippines (Peso)	43.49
Poland (Zloty)	3.32
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2526
South Korea (Won)	1,019.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9270
Thailand (Baht)	32.01
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1536

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for non-military exchange rates (i.e., the U.S. dollar and British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. British pound rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	-0.03
30-year bond	3.14

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.762	\$3.941	\$4.106	\$4.117
Change in price	no change	+0.3 cents	0.3 cents	-0.7 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.747	\$5.026	\$4.869
Change in price	--	+1.6 cents	+1.4 cents	-0.7 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.911	\$4.087	\$4.087
Change in price	--	+0.3 cents	no change	-0.7 cents
Azores	--	--	--	\$4.092
Change in price	--	--	--	+0.3 cents
Belgium	--	\$3.838	\$4.026	\$4.240
Change in price	--	-14.2 cents	-15.4 cents	-16.4 cents
Turkey	--	--	\$4.219	\$4.089
Change in price	--	--	-4.4 cents	-18.5 cents
Italy	--	\$4.088	--	\$4.164
Change in price	--	-9.2 cents	--	-3.3 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.789	--	\$3.799
Change in price	--	-1.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.599	--	--	\$3.799
Change in price	--	--	--	-1.0 cents
South Korea	--	\$3.589	--	\$3.939
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	no change	-1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.579**	\$3.749	\$3.919	--
Change in price	+1.0 cents	no change	no change	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Sept. 5-12

## MARKET WATCH

Sept. 3, 2014	
Dow Jones	+10.72
industrials	17,078.28
Nasdaq	-25.62
composite	4,572.57
Standard & Poor's 500	-1.56
	2,000.72
Russell	-7.27
2000	1,172.20

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

## Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex.	81	75	PcDly	Chattanooga	90	71	Cldy	Fort Wayne	88	69	Cldy	Louisville	91	74	PcDly	Pocatello	76	37	Cir
Akron, Ohio	86	67	PcDly	Cheyenne	67	46	Cldy	Honolulu	94	75	Cir	Mobile	91	71	Cldy	Portland, Maine	83	64	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	87	62	PcDly	Chicago	83	75	Rain	Goodland	62	53	Rain	Macon	90	70	PcDly	Portland, Ore.	90	59	Cir
Albuquerque	83	65	Cldy	Cincinnati	89	70	Cldy	Grand Junction	85	60	Cldy	Madison	74	67	Cldy	Providence	85	66	Cldy
Albuquerque	87	63	PcDly	Cleveland	88	69	PcDly	Grand Rapids	83	73	Cldy	Mefford	95	57	Cir	Pueblo	68	54	Cldy
Amarillo	85	66	PcDly	Colorado Springs	65	51	Cldy	Great Falls	72	42	Cir	Memphis	93	75	Cldy	Portland-Durham	91	72	PcDly
Anchorage	59	49	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	94	71	PcDly	Greensboro, N.C.	72	66	PcDly	Miami Beach	89	81	PcDly	Rapid City	68	47	Cldy
Asheville	84	66	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	88	73	PcDly	Harrisburg	90	71	PcDly	Midland-Odessa	89	73	PcDly	Reno	86	53	Cir
Atlanta	87	72	PcDly	Concord, N.H.	87	58	Cir	Hartford	88	61	Cir	Minneapolis	75	51	Cldy	Richmond	93	70	Cldy
Atlantic City	88	68	PcDly	Corydon	92	71	Cldy	Helena	74	43	Cldy	Missoula	76	32	Cir	Roanoke	90	69	Cldy
Austin	96	76	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	97	76	PcDly	Honolulu	94	75	Cir	Montgomery	93	73	Cldy	St. Louis	91	69	Cldy
Baltimore	90	70	PcDly	Dayton	88	69	Cldy	Houston	94	76	Cldy	Nashville	91	72	Cldy	St. Peterburg	89	79	Cldy
Baton Rouge	93	73	Rain	Daytona Beach	88	75	Rain	Huntsville	91	71	Cldy	New York	87	71	Cldy	St. Thomas	89	79	Cldy
Billings	91	75	Cldy	Denver	69	47	Cldy	Indianapolis	88	70	Cldy	New Orleans	92	77	Rain	St. Petersburg	89	79	Cldy
Birmingham	90	71	Cldy	Des Moines	89	70	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	89	73	Cldy	Omaha	87	69	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	92	56	Cir
Bismarck	71	42	Cir	Detroit	88	70	Rain	Jacksonville	88	61	Cir	Orlando	92	75	Rain	San Antonio	92	75	Cldy
Boise	82	67	Cir	Duluth	65	53	PcDly	Jameau	58	51	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	89	73	Cldy	Salt Lake City	82	57	Cldy
Boston	88	67	Cir	El Paso	90	72	PcDly	Kansas City	78	70	Cldy	North Platte	68	51	Cldy	San Diego	97	78	Cldy
Bridgeport	85	64	PcDly	Elkins	86	61	Cldy	Key West	90	82	Cldy	Oklahoma City	94	74	PcDly	San Francisco	75	60	Cldy
Brownsville	90	77	Cldy	Evansville	85	70	Cldy	Knoxville	91	71	Cldy	Omaha	87	69	Cldy	Seattle	88	77	Cldy
Buffalo	85	70	Cldy	Fairbanks	54	34	PcDly	Lake Charles	91	76	Cldy	Orlando	92	75	Rain	San Jose	80	60	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	87	65	PcDly	Fargo	69	47	Cir	Las Vegas	101	79	Cldy	Pasadena	92	75	Rain	Santa Fe	80	57	Cldy
Carroll, Maine	82	58	Cldy	Flagstaff	76	49	PcDly	Lexington	90	71	Cldy	Peoria	84	73	Rain	St. Ste Marie	67	64	Cldy
Casper	69	43	Cldy	Flint	89	71	Cldy	Little Rock	94	74	Cldy	Philadelphia	89	69	PcDly	Savannah	88	74	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	91	74	PcDly	Flagstaff	76	49	PcDly	Lincoln	68	59	Cldy	Phoenix	104	83	PcDly	Seattle	81	55	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	89	67	Cldy	Fort Smith	95	73	PcDly	Los Angeles	80	66	PcDly	Pittsburgh	87	66	PcDly	Shreveport	95	75	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	89	71	Cldy																

National temperature extremes  
City Hi/Low, 27, Snake River, Ranger Station, Wyo.



## STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe  
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander  
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
 leonard.terry@stars.com  
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
 reid.robert@stars.com  
 Sam Amrhein, Managing Editor International  
 amrhein.sam@stars.com  
 Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
 croley.tina@stars.com  
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
 moores.sean@stars.com  
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
 gromelski.joe@stars.com

## BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
 Teddy Weyre, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
 weyre.teddy@stars.com  
 +49(0)631.3615.931; cell  
 +49(0)173.315.1880; DSN (314)583.9310  
**Pacific**  
 Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief  
 alexander.paul@stars.com  
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673  
 DSN (315)225.5377  
**Washington**  
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief  
 dickson.patrick@stars.com  
 (+1)202.761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908  
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stars.com  
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor  
 trypanis.amanda@stars.com

## CONTACT US

**Washington**  
 tel. (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;  
 fax (+1)202.761.0890  
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC  
 20045-1301

**Reader letters**  
 letters@stars.com

**Additional contacts**  
 stars.com/contacts

## OMBUSDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## a. overseas voters have extra hurdle

By BOB CAREY,  
 SAM WRIGHT  
 AND JOSE FLYNN-BROWN

**I**t is election season again, which means military voters get to struggle through voter registration forms, mail delays and concerns about whether their ballots will return in time to be counted. But for these servicemembers, the unique electoral process poses specific issues for military voters. And that state's elections are even more important as the race for U.S. senator may determine which political party controls the Senate. If that election is close, the approximately 17,600 active military personnel from Louisiana, at least 4,400 of whom are likely overseas, may be the deciding factor. For these servicemembers, here's what you need to know.

Louisiana uses a primary system affectionately called the "Cajun Primary." In the rest of the country, voters will vote on Nov. 4 for candidates that already won primaries. But in Louisiana, all the candidates from all the parties will be on a single ballot. Eligible voters can vote in this election for a candidate of any party, just like any other general election. And, after tallying the vote, if one candidate wins more than 50 percent of the total vote, he or she is declared the winner. This election, in essence, serves as both the primary and the general election.

But if no candidate achieves more than 50 percent of the vote, a run-off election will be held on Dec. 6. This year, there will almost certainly be a run-off for U.S. senator because there are several strong candi-

dates on the Nov. 4 ballot.

The problem with that system, however, is that it doesn't provide enough time for overseas military personnel to get the run-off election ballot and return it in time for the ballot to be counted. In 2008, National Defense Committee, Reserve Officers Association, and a broad group of military voter advocacy organizations coalesced to form the Alliance for Military and Overseas Voting Reform. This Alliance successfully fought to enact the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act), which requires States to send absentee ballots to military voters at least 45 days before the election. But if there is a run-off election in Louisiana, the Dec. 6 date is only 32 days after the Nov. 4 election — not enough days to get new ballots out to military voters in time to return them.

Fortunately, working with the Federal Voting Assistance Program in the Department of Defense, Louisiana officials came up with a workable solution to ensure the state's military voters still have adequate opportunity to participate in any run-off election: the Instant Run-Off Ballot, or IRB.

This year, Louisiana military and overseas voters will receive two ballots for the Nov. 4 election: one white, one green. The white ballot is the "Cajun Primary" ballot to vote for a single candidate in each race, and the green ballot is for any run-off election that is needed. On the green ballot, voters rank the candidates by number according to their preference for which candidate should win that election. The remaining candidate that the voter ranked

highest will get that voter's vote if there's a run-off election.

With the Louisiana "Cajun Primary" Nov. 4, Louisiana election officials will send out both the white and green ballots by Sept. 20. If they haven't already, Louisiana must ensure that ballots are sent absentee ballots as soon as possible by filing out the Federal Post Card Application; or better yet, go online to [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) to fill it out.

Additionally, Louisiana set up its own online voter registration portal and absentee ballot application portal that military voters can use, and may be able to file their registrations and applications online without having to send by mail.

Our men and women in uniform sacrifice so much to keep us safe and secure. We must ensure that their right to vote is protected. But, it is a two-way street: Louisiana must ensure that ballots are sent overseas in compliance with federal law and servicemembers need to make the effort to vote.

Bob Carey is the former director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, a captain in the Navy Reserve, and executive director of the National Defense Committee, a nonprofit based in Alexandria, Va., that works to protect the individual rights of servicemembers. Sam Wright is a retired captain in the Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps and director of the Service Members Law Center at the Reserve Officers Association. Josh Flynn-Brown is an attorney who has worked with ensuring MOVE Act compliance and is a legal fellow at the National Defense Committee. None of the opinions expressed here are necessarily those of the U.S. Navy or the Department of Defense, and are the personal opinions of the authors.

## US needs to get serious about defense spending

By CHARLES LANE  
 The Washington Post

**I**n the run-up to this week's North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit, much has been made of the fact that the United States is one of just a handful of the 28 member states that spends more than 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense — along with Britain, Estonia and Greece, and the latter qualifies only because its GDP has collapsed even faster than its military budget.

Undoubtedly the Europeans must shoulder their fair share of the defense burden if they are simultaneously to resist Vladimir Putin's new aggressiveness and to persuade the United States, which currently spends \$3 on defense for every \$1 its NATO allies spend, to continue supporting them.

Yet the events in Ukraine — and in northern Iraq, where the Islamic State is slaughtering its way to a "caliphate" — should force a realistic assessment of the United States' own defense budgets, which are not actually as robust as the Pentagon's share of GDP — 3.8 percent, according to the World Bank — would imply.

Under current law, defense spending will steadily decline to 2.7 percent of GDP over the next decade, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates. Much of that is due to the winding down of the war in Afghanistan, as well as the lingering impact of sequestration.

This would represent the lowest level of funding since before World War II, and it would have to be spread among defense commitments beyond those of NATO. Unlike most of its European allies, the United States has interests and treaty obligations in Asia and elsewhere.

Fact is, the share of GDP that the United States or any other country devotes to its defense budget is at best a symbolic indicator. It contains no information about the actual use of the money.

As the United States' defense budget

**Every dollar spent on health benefits for retirees is a dollar we can't spend training and equipping men and women to deal with the Islamic State, Putin and other threats.**

shrinks relative to its economy, more and more of it is destined to purposes that have little, or nothing, to do with deterring or, if necessary, winning wars in the here and now.

The CBO reported in January that the Defense Department's health care costs will rise from \$49 billion in 2014 to \$70 billion in 2028 (in inflation-adjusted dollars). That is an increase of about 40 percent in real terms; as a result, health care will account for 11 percent of the defense budget in 2028, up from an already astounding 9 percent today.

The mainspring of this spending growth, the CBO found, is the increasingly generous benefits Congress has bestowed on military retirees — not the cost of taking care of active-duty servicemembers and their families.

As the CBO put the matter, "In a fiscal climate in which the department's overall budget can increase only slowly, continued rapid growth in military health care costs could force DoD to reduce spending in other areas, such as force structure, military readiness, and weapons modernization." Less health care, that is, less money spent on health benefits for retirees is a dollar we can't spend training and equipping men and women to deal with the Islamic State, Putin and other threats.

A similar point applies to military pensions, a \$51 billion item in fiscal 2014 pro-

jected to grow to \$62 billion by 2024.

As a raft of commissions and experts have amply documented, retiree benefits are vastly oversold as a recruitment tool, in part because you only qualify after 20 years of service, a condition that only a minority of the military fulfill. What's more, many working-age retirees get deeply subsidized military health care even though they could qualify for insurance through their jobs; after they join Medicare, Uncle Sam buys retirees the equivalent of Medicaid insurance.

Modest co-payment increases and other tweaks to the health program could save billions, but Congress dare not cross the military retiree lobby.

The Ryan-Murray budget agreement enacted at the end of 2013 did trim 1 percentage point from military pension, but cost-of-living increases, saving \$6 billion over 10 years. Tiny as it is, the change doesn't go into effect until December 2015, and powerful retiree organizations are vowing to undo it then.

The truth is that military retiree health care and pensions are badly in need of reform, as President Barack Obama, to his credit, has noted in repeated budget proposals to Congress. But lawmakers of both parties resist, in deference to the lobbies — and to the detriment of our nation's defense capabilities.

Meanwhile, we borrow. Putin's aggression, and the rise of the Islamic State, test more than the democratic West's ability to raise and spend defense dollars; they test our ability to overcome parochial interests and set priorities. In short, to be serious.

Europe's failure to do so, to confront the new menaces effectively is often attributed to its economic malaise, which, in turn, reflects its convoluted and indecisive government — its lack of seriousness. All true. But are we so different?

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## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Tyrants always hate reporters  
Anniston (Ala.) Star

Twelve years ago, the beheading of The Wall Street Journal's Daniel Pearl by al-Qaida jihadists in Pakistan reaffirmed the dangers of reporting from the world's most dangerous places.

Caught up in the turbulent times just after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Pearl died at the hands of radical Islamists committed to violence against America and its closest allies. The ghastly manner in which he perished — a videotaped beheading — made it all the worse.

Twelve years later, two more American journalists have suffered similar fates — not by al-Qaida, but by the Islamic State, a nebulous group that claims to have established an Islamic caliphate in parts of Syria and Iraq. James Foley, a reporter and videographer captured in Syria in 2012, was beheaded in August as retaliation for U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State sites. On Tuesday, the war-torn nation claimed another American journalist, Steven Sotloff, had also been beheaded.

Journalists have died in dangerous places for as long as newspapers and war correspondents have existed. Some left behind spectacular examples of reporting and photography — think Ernie Pyle, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist killed in the Pacific during World War II in 1945. Others have been sent to history, a statistic for those who document the risks journalists in war zones take.

The Committee to Protect Journalists says 1,073 journalists have died worldwide, since 1992. The deadliest places for journalists coincide with nations corrupted by war and unrest, and those whose governments turn a blind eye toward press freedoms.

The Islamic State governs neither a nation, state or recognized boundary. Bruce Riedel, a former CIA and White House official now at the Brookings Institution, told The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel that the Islamic State "is far more difficult to deal with" than Iran or the militant group Hezbollah.

The group "wants to terrorize Americans, it's not really interested in deals."

We remind those who say journalists shouldn't be in these places of extreme violence that despots, warlords and jihadists would act free of detailed scrutiny if this reporting was silenced.

All for civil political awareness  
The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

It was a little, incongruous fact we say, for the country's two-term vice president, Joe Biden, to say, as he did at a rally this past weekend, "It's time to take America back!"

From whom, exactly? He and his running mate have been in power since 2009. Their party also held sway over both houses of Congress for the first two years, and it still controls the powerful Senate.

How utterly bizarre for even a gaffe-prone sitting vice president to succumb to this kind of misuse, exhorting others to "take America back" when he already, essentially, "has" it. But such are the verbal cut-de-secs we get into when venturing into divisive rhetoric.

Alas, this kind of fire-breathing has come to be expected in the political silly season, which officially kicks off with the relative peace of Labor Day. Is there any escaping it?

One would hope so, for it is precisely this kind of circular firing squad that has



The America in the doldrums. Most Americans, we would guess, are dog tired of the various political factions shooting at each other rhetorically, assassinating each other's character and otherwise completely ignoring the country's problems.

We need to do something radical in the Information Age: We need to inform ourselves. We need to decide what we believe. And we need to take action. Support your preferred candidates. Discuss the issues civilly with friends. Keep up on current events. And, of course, cast a knowledgeable vote. Don't take the country back. Just recognize it's there for you — even if you haven't been there for it.

Take tobacco ban beyond CVS  
(Louisville, Ky.) Courier-Journal

Kicking the tobacco habit just got easier, especially if you shop at CVS drug stores. The retail chain said earlier this year that it would remove tobacco products from its 7,700 stores by Oct. 1. Officials beat their own deadline by almost a month by ending sales of tobacco products Wednesday.

When CVS announced its plans, company leaders said the sales of tobacco, and its harmful and widespread effect on people, contradicted the company's broader mission in delivering health care — the pharmacies also have about 900 walk-in clinics. Appropriately there will also be a name change to the company with the new emphasis: CVS Health.

In addition to dropping tobacco, CVS also offers smoking cessation programs to its customers. USA Today reports the programs include "an assessment of the smoker's 'readiness to quit,' education, medication support to help curb the desire to use tobacco and coaching to help people stay motivated and avoid relapses."

The move is a fascinating curve in a business arc, and it also demonstrates responsible corporate citizenship that other companies should emulate.

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have noted, cigarette smoking harms almost every organ in the body. It causes almost 500,000 deaths in the nation each year — and it's responsible for 10 times as many premature deaths than all the deaths in all the wars in U.S. history. It causes 90 percent of all lung cancer deaths (more than 159,000) each year; there are about 224,210 new cases of lung cancer every year. ... Way to go, CVS.

Ex-Im Bank's work has value  
(San Antonio) Express News

The end of September will see the end of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Congress must do or the Ex-Im Bank will die, and, along with it, crucial help for Texas companies whose livelihood is the export of goods. Also gone will be good Texas jobs.

A recent Express-News article by business writer David Hendricks spelled it out. The Ex-Im Bank, which provides loans and loan guarantees to foreign companies that want to buy U.S. goods, will end if not reauthorized by Sept. 30.

The tea party has targeted the agency as a purveyor of corporate welfare. A Texas congressman, Republican Rep. Jeb Hensarling, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, criticizes Ex-Im for that and for alleged fraud.

Hendricks noted that there have been some publicized cases of fraud in Ex-Im transactions. It is a rare government program, however, that doesn't have such incidents. If the programs provide a critical service, this means they should be cleaned and tightened up, not eliminated. The Ex-Im Bank provides such a service.

Between 2007 and 2013, the bank helped 1,338 Texas exporters sell \$21 billion in goods. Its loans returned \$1,057 billion to the agency in fiscal year 2013, and its loan default rate has been just above 0.2 percent per quarter.

This indicates need — and benefit.

Yes, private banks can also provide such services, but at terms likely to be more expensive. That means less growth for U.S. and Texas export companies. Other countries have programs similar to what the Ex-Im Bank provides. ...

Many business groups and others, including Texas Gov. Rick Perry, have been pushing back. The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has launched an investigation of possible corruption in the agency, focusing on four employees who left Ex-Im. Even if this committee uncovers abuses, the need must be weighed against the harm that would be done if Ex-Im isn't reauthorized.

Russia threat demands action  
The Wall Street Journal

This week's NATO summit in Wales is being billed as one of the most important in its 65-year history, and with good reason. The Atlantic alliance needs to prove it is serious about deterring the no longer unthinkable prospect of another major war in Europe.

Let's think we overstate, on Monday the Italian newspaper La Repubblica quoted Vladimir Putin telling European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso that "if I want, I can take Kiev in two weeks" — a statement the Kremlin did not deny (though it did denounce the leak). Putin is talking openly about "New Russia," with specific mention of the cities of Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk in eastern Ukraine as well as Odessa on the Black Sea. Such talk may be bluster, but the stealthy seizure of Crimea was supposed to be unthinkable only a few months ago. So was Russia's invasion of Ukraine last month. The problem with calling some

thing unthinkable is that it tends to dull the thinking needed to keep it that way. Europeans also thought the world wars of the last century were unthinkable right up until they broke out.

Wars happen when aggressors detect the lack of will to stop them. After Russia's 2008 invasion of Georgia, we warned that "Ukraine, which has been pushing Russia to move its Black Sea fleet's headquarters, could be next." We also noted that "the (NATO) alliance needs to respond forcefully." It didn't. Here we are.

The good news is that NATO's institutional leaders, civilian and military, have been awake to reality for some time. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the alliance's energetic secretary-general, was warning well before Russia's invasion of Ukraine that NATO's European members needed to spend a great deal more on defense. "We must shift the argument from the cost of defense to the cost of no defense," Rasmussen said last October.

Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO supreme commander, has also been clear in describing the nature and sophistication of Russia's military moves. "Surprise, deception and strategic ambiguity have been adeptly employed by Russia against Ukraine," the general wrote in The Wall Street Journal on July 16, adding that "this strategy, quite simply, has significant implications for Europe's future security."

Far from clear, however, is whether Western political leaders share this sense of urgency.

As for the ostensible leader of the Free World, President Barack Obama is busy downplaying the threats to world order by saying, as he did on Monday, that "the world has always been messy" and "the world is always changing." He's just noticing now because of social media." Social media aren't sending those Russian tanks toward Donetsk.

The only way to deter such military aggression is to show of comparable military and political resolve. NATO states — including the U.S. — will have to reverse the trend of cuts to military spending.

No justification to detain Bae  
The Seattle Times

North Korea's surprising decision over the weekend to let CNN and The Associated Press interview three imprisoned Americans is a strong sign its leaders are ready to talk.

This latest gesture renews hope for the release of former Washington state resident Kenneth Bae. Bae, North Korea's longest-held American prisoner since the Korean War, was arrested in November 2012 while guiding tourists across the border.

The former tour guide and devout Christian appeared visibly thinner in a video broadcast with other Americans await formal trials, though they say they do not know the exact charges against them.

Under the watch of a North Korean prison guard, Bae said he is being treated humanely, but eight hours of work, six days a week is degrading his health.

Columbia University professor Charles K. Armstrong, a North Korea expert, says this could be an opening to ease tensions and secure the release of all three Americans on humanitarian grounds.

"Particularly in the case of Kenneth Bae, who has been in North Korea for the longest time," Armstrong says, "It's important to try to get his release, which doesn't mean the U.S. needs to do anything egregious like deposit money into the North Koreans' bank account."

In a statement Monday, Bae's sister, Terri Chung, begged Kim Jong Un to have mercy: "It is in your power to release my brother. You could do it today. Please do so."

Tight-lipped U.S. State Department officials say they are working behind the scenes to help. Their offer to send an envoy to North Korea should take them up on it.



## US OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS

## Djokovic tops fading Murray in quarters

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Through a pair of back-and-forth sets, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray put on a display befitting a matchup of past U.S. Open champions.

They tracked down would-be winners and somehow got them back, prolonging points that involved 10 or 20 strokes or more, extended by Djokovic's slides and splits or Murray's gifted anticipation. After one 30-shot masterpiece on his way to victory, Djokovic raised his right fist, belatedly, "Come on!" and windmilled his arms to rile up the crowd.

Eventually, the physically demanding action proved too much for a fading Murray, and Djokovic pulled away to win 7-6 (1), 6-7 (1), 6-2, 6-4 and reach the tournament's semifinals for the eighth consecutive year.

"I knew coming into tonight's match that it's going to be tough, that he's going to go for his shots, and the more aggressive one would win it," the No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Djokovic said. "I'm glad I managed to stay in it the end and pull it through."

It took a while for him to push out front in a 3-hour, 32-minute match that ended after 1 a.m. Thursday.

Asked in an on-court interview to look ahead to facing 10th-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan in Saturday's semifinals, Djokovic joked: "My thoughts are just directed to sleeping right now."

That drew guffaws from spectators, and he continued: "Or party. What do you say? Let's party. I think my coach right there would chase me with a little baseball bat



JOHN MINICELLO/AP

**Novak Djokovic, right, shakes hands with Andy Murray after their quarterfinal match ended early Thursday in New York. Djokovic won 7-6 (1), 6-7 (1), 6-2, 6-4.**

if he saw me going to the city to party right now."

Nishikori became the first man from Japan to reach the U.S. Open semifinals since Ichiji Kumagae in 1918, outlasting third-seeded Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7), 6-7 (5), 6-4.

In the women's quarterfinals, top-seeded Serena Williams dropped the first three games before quickly turning things around to defeat 11th-seeded Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-3, 6-2.

Williams, who counts five U.S. Open titles among her 17 Grand

Slam trophies, will play 17th-seeded Ekaterina Makarova of Russia in the semifinals.

Taking advantage as the eighth-seeded Murray's lively forehand dipped in quality and the Scot's service speeds slipped, Djokovic broke to go up 3-1 in the third set, then fended off a pair of break points in the next game. On the first, Murray sailed a backhand long to end a 28-stroke point, then leaned over and put a hand on his knee. On the second, he dumped a forehand into the net, then slammed his racket against

his right thigh and yelled.

Soon, Murray was turning to his box to say, "Nothing in the legs." In the fourth set, a trainer came out to deliver a heat pack to Murray.

"I got stiff in my hips and my back... I don't know exactly why," said Murray, who beat Djokovic in the finals at the U.S. Open in 2012 and Wimbledon in 2013. "I didn't hurt anything. It was just, I think, fatigue."

He had back surgery a year ago, and dealt with cramping in his first-round match in New

York last week. Murray looked fine since then, but he couldn't sustain his top form against the relentless Djokovic, who won the U.S. Open in 2011.

"He was fresher toward the end," Murray said. "I tried to hang in as best I could."

Until the third set, anyway, Djokovic-Murray was reminiscent — in terms of pure entertainment value and setting, if not quite star power — of the 2001 classic between Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, which also was a quarterfinal, and also under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium. That one, won by Sampras, featured four tiebreakers, because neither man broke serve even once.

Djokovic and Murray combined for 11 service breaks, seven by Djokovic, including in the final game. They are both brilliant baseliners and retrievers, and it helps that they know each other — and each other's patterns — so well.

Wednesday's opening set was a 73-minute exercise in shape-shifting and shot making. In the tiebreaker, though, Murray lost his way: He double-faulted, put a return into the net, flubbed a backhand and, before he knew it, that set was gone.

Djokovic went up a break in the second set. Murray broke back. Djokovic took another of Murray's service games. And, yes, Murray again broke back, delivering a forehand winner that left an angered Djokovic sweating a spare ball off the serve-speed indicator.

"We always," Djokovic said afterward, "push each other to the limits."

## Briefly

## Knicks plan to hold training camp at West Point

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — The New York Knicks will hold their training camp at the United States Military Academy for the first time since 1966.

The team said Thursday it will practice in West Point, N.Y., from Sept. 30 until Oct. 4 at Christ Arena.

It will be the first training camp under new coach Derek Fisher. The Knicks have been holding camp at their training center in Greenburgh in recent years after having it in Saratoga in former coach Mike D'Antoni's first two seasons.

The U.S. national team practiced for a day at West Point before the Basketball World Cup.

## Florida-Idaho game cancelled

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** — Florida and Idaho have agreed to cancel their postponed season opener.

The Gators announced Wednesday that they decided not to reschedule the game, which was called Saturday night after heavy rain created unsafe field conditions.

The schools also agreed to play in Gainesville in 2017.

The Vandals still will get their contracted \$975,000 for making last week's trip to Gainesville.

Florida will refund millions in ticket sales, although insurance is expected to cover all or most of the lost revenue.

The game was delayed nearly three hours because of repeated lightning strikes around Florida Field. The game finally started at 9:50 p.m., but stopped after 10 seconds. Valdez Showers returned the opening kickoff 64 yards, giving the Gators the ball on the 14-yard line. But more lightning was detected near the stadium, and the game was halted for good.

## UCLA RB Manfro out for year

**LOS ANGELES** — UCLA running back Steven Manfro will miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL, a school spokesman said Wednesday.

Manfro was taken off the practice field on a cart after injuring his knee Tuesday. The junior is part of the No. 11 Bruins'

three-man rotation at the position with Paul Perkins and Jordan James, and he was often featured as a receiver out of the backfield. UCLA spokesman Steve Rourke confirmed Manfro's injury Wednesday.

Manfro caught 37 passes for 400 yards and two touchdowns over the last two seasons.

## US overwhelms Dominicans

**BILBAO, Spain** — The U.S. wrapped up the No. 1 seed in its group Wednesday, improving to 4-0 at the Basketball World Cup with a 106-71 victory over the Dominican Republic.

Kenneth Faried, whose shooting percentage dropped after he missed three shots, scored 16 points for the U.S. DeMarcus Cousins came off the bench and added 13 points on 5-for-5 shooting.

The Americans will finish Group C play in Bilbao on Thursday against Ukraine — when U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski will coach against longtime friend and former NBA coach Mike Fratello — before playing their round of 16 game Saturday night in Barcelona against the fourth-place

team from Group D, which was still to be determined.

## Complaint after Auriemma call

**STORRS, Conn.** — University of Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma says an unnamed school has complained to the American Athletic Conference after he made a congratulatory phone call to Little League World Series pitching star Mo'Ne Davis.

Auriemma said Wednesday she spoke with the 13-year-old Philadelphia girl for about two minutes when she was at Little League headquarters. He says someone in the Philadelphia 76ers organization suggested it and Little League officials asked if it was OK for Mo'Ne to call him.

Mo'ne said during the tournament she hoped to play for the Conn. team. Her Taney Dragons team reached the Little League semifinals.

UConn says since Mo'Ne isn't even in high school, it's not a recruiting violation. The complaining school says recruits can't be contacted before their high school junior year.



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Aggies' Hill will pass on 'Kenny Football' moniker

## Record-setting quarterback wants to forge his own identity

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Just call him Kenny Trill.

Many, including Johnny Manziel himself, started calling new Texas A&M quarterback Kenny Hill by the nickname Kenny Football after his record-setting, 511-yard passing game in an upset of then-No. 9 South Carolina last week.

But the sophomore quarterback says that's Manziel's thing — and he prefers Kenny Trill.

"I like that one," he said. "That one's cool."

Before settling on Kenny Trill, Hill went through a laundry list of nicknames people have suggested since Thursday's game.

"I heard there's Kenny Trill, Kenny Thrill, King of the Hill, Kenny Football, Kenny Chill, Kenny Touchdown," he said. "I mean there's too many of them."

Although trill is a word to describe a vibratory sound, that's not what it means in rap culture. It's a hybrid of true and real and has long been used by Texas rapper Bun B, who calls himself Bun B Trill OG.

"I know about Bun B and I know coach Sumlin has got a little relationship with Bun B," Hill said. "So hopefully he'll let me be Kenny Trill."

Maybe that will happen one day, but for now Bun B isn't quite ready to sign off on the moniker. He tweeted: "Like the idea of 'Kenny Trill' but I think @coachsumlin would agree one good game alone doesn't make you trill. He's on his way though!"

Hill said scores of people have approached him for pictures. They won't get them: Hill said coach Kevin Sumlin told him not to take them because "Johnny got in so much trouble over pictures."

Manziel, the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner for Texas A&M, was suspended for the first half of the Aggies' season opener against Rice for what the school said was an "inadvertent" violation of NCAA rules involving signing autographs. He also received criticism after being photographed after the Cotton Bowl in a nightclub holding a bottle of champagne and more criticism when he posted a picture of himself with a wad of cash from gambling.

Sumlin denied telling Hill that he wasn't allowed

to take pictures.

"I told the guys that if they ever want to pass the blame, blame it on me," Sumlin said with a laugh. "Johnny didn't do that a lot last year. Kenny already took advantage of that. But he needs to let me know. You've got something like that, just blame it on me. The next step is let me know."

Texas A&M's coaching staff even got on board with the nickname on Monday. When asked about Hill's turning into a celebrity overnight, offensive coordinator Jake Spavital answered: "Kenny Trill, you mean?"

Spavital said he didn't have any strong feelings about the nickname, but knew that he didn't want to copy Manziel's nickname.

"That's none of my business, but I knew he didn't want Kenny Football and that's the main thing," Spavital said. "Kenny Trill, I had to ask him what trill meant."

Hill was named Manziel's replacement on Aug. 16 after beating out freshman Kyle Allen for the job left vacant when Manziel left early for the NFL and a backup job with the Cleveland Browns.

Hill saw limited action last season, throwing for 183 yards and a touchdown in four games. He was the Texas Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior at Southlake Carroll High School after throwing for 2,291 yards and 20 touchdowns, and running for 905 yards and 22 scores.

He and the Aggies, who moved from No. 21 to No. 9 after beating South Carolina, play their first game at the newly renovated Kyle Field on Saturday when they host Lamar.



RANDY EMMERT/AP

Texas A&M quarterback Kenny Hill, dubbed Kenny Football by many after his 511-yard passing performance in the Aggies' season-opening victory, prefers Kenny Trill. In hip-hop culture, trill is a hybrid of true and real. "I like that one," Hill said. "That one's cool."

# Big Ten gets big chance to shape perception this week

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI  
The Associated Press

The Big Ten has been fighting a perception for the last few years that it has fallen a step behind the rest of the major college football world, and Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio was armed with a quick rebuttal when the question came up again Tuesday.

As Dantonio's seventh-ranked Spartans prepare for a showdown with No. 3 Oregon on Saturday in a week that also includes Michigan visiting No. 16 Notre Dame and No. 8 Ohio State hosting Virginia Tech, the coach was asked if the Big Ten needs marquee victories to fight that perception.

"We won the Rose Bowl last year," Dantonio said, "so what are you talking about?"

"It's one game that we can control and we won the Rose Bowl. That's the best we can do. Everybody has to play the games and



Michigan (1-0)  
at No. 16 Notre Dame (1-0)  
AFN-Atlantic  
1:30 a.m. Sunday CET



that's why they play them. We beat Georgia a couple years ago, but the perception still exists. You just line up and play games. That's that people get caught up in looking at a whole group of people and casting them into one group."

In the first year of the new play-off format, it could be argued that perception has never been more important.

This year, a 13-person committee is responsible for choosing

four teams that will compete for the national championship. No computers. No polls. That relatively small group of people has been instructed to place an emphasis on strength of schedule in its evaluation process.

In a conference like the Big Ten that is considered softer than, say, the SEC, the opportunities to pile up wins that would impress the committee during the conference season aren't quite as bountiful. That's why Wisconsin's loss to LSU last weekend was particularly stinging for the Badgers, who do not play Michigan, Michigan State or Ohio State this season.

"Quality wins, big wins, all those things are always important," Michigan coach Brady Hoke said. "This is such a mental game played from the neck up in your everyday approach and your preparation. The enthusiasm that comes by that is always good for anybody's program."

The Big Ten had an impressive opening weekend, going 12-2. But many of those games were played against lightweights while the conference lost two of the games that featured reputable programs from the power conferences — Wisconsin to LSU and Northwestern against Cal.

Ohio State had to slug it out with Navy to outlast its unconventional triple-option offense and now has to shift gears to play the Hokies.

The only team on the Buckeyes' remaining schedule that is currently ranked in the Top 25 is Michigan State on Nov. 8.

Hoke recalled how legendary Wolverines coach Bo Schembechler referred to the game against the Irish as "a measuring point" for the rest of the season.

"We can't worry about anybody else," Hoke said. "We've got to worry about what we're doing and people are going to write what they think period about the

Big Ten. From that standpoint we hope the conference does well, but we've got a lot on our plate going into South Bend."

The biggest game this weekend, no doubt, will be in Oregon. The Ducks' high-flying offense against the Spartans' physical defense. And no matter how much Dantonio wants to downplay it, a win for Michigan State would be a win for the Big Ten.

"We're in a great conference," Dantonio said. "This is about Michigan State and Oregon and how we match up. But there's no question we go there representing the Big Ten just like we do in every game and everything we do. I'm comfortable with that, but I think it's more about how we play, how our players play against their players and how we match up individually in our little battles."

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Stanford's O-line has reputation to uphold

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ  
The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Stanford's offensive line was in the middle of a meeting during spring practices earlier this year when a few large visitors walked into the room.

Current NFL linemen Jonathan Martin and David Yankey and former team captain Sam Schwartzstein popped in with a couple of other past players to give a surprise history lesson. They educated the new crop of Cardinal linemen about the responsibility they were inheriting and issued them a challenge.

"They told us they laid so much ground work for us, but we had the opportunity to take that to the next step, to keep progressing, to keep it moving forward," redshirt sophomore center Graham Shuler said.

While most offensive lines toil in anonymity, Stanford's has gained national attention during the program's recent run of success, which includes winning the past two Pac-12 titles. The unit, dubbed the Tunnel Workers Union, has been the bulldozer in front of a power running game and the anchor behind a pro-style passing attack.

With four new starters next to one of the country's top left tackles in Andrus Peat, the unit is in the early stages of another reconstruction. The new-look line will face its first major test Saturday when the 13th-ranked Cardinal (1-0) host Leonard Williams and No. 14 Southern California (1-0) in a much-anticipated Pac-12 tilt.

"The challenge this week is



No. 14 Southern Cal (1-0)  
at No. 13 Stanford (1-0)  
AFN-Sports  
9:30 a.m. Saturday CET  
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

prominent," said Stanford coach David Shaw, who has remained steadfast in his belief that the offensive line will continue to meet its high standard this season.

Shaw said on Signing Day in February 2012 that his five current starters — Peat, left guard Joshua Garnett, Shuler, right guard Johnny Caspers and tackle Kyle Murphy — had the potential to "be one of the best offensive line classes in modern football history."

Hogan said the offensive line is among the most tight-knit groups on the team and the linemen take it especially hard when they don't play well. He said watching how the group has performed against Stanford's defensive front seven in offseason practices gives him confidence they will show against USC just how good they can be.

"They play with a chip on their shoulder," Hogan said. "They know that we lost all those great guys on the offensive line the past couple years. Next time to prove that they're that next elite group, which I think they are. It helps motivate them."



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Stanford's new-look offensive line, which features four new starters, will try to protect quarterback Kevin Hogan when the No. 13 Cardinal hosts the No. 14 Southern Cal Trojan on Saturday.



PAUL SANCIA/AP

Michigan State cornerback Darian Hicks get an assist from safety Mark Meyers to bring down Jacksonville State wide receiver Anthony Johnson in the Spartans' season-opening win last Friday.

## Spartans face tough task against high-flying Ducks

By NOAH TRISTER  
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Pat Narduzzi will have enough to worry about when Michigan State takes on Oregon this weekend, so the talkative defensive coordinator dismissed the idea that jet lag or the heat might play a significant role in the outcome.

"You can say food's a factor, the airplane's a factor. We can name all kinds of factors, if you let it be a factor," Narduzzi said. "The factor is that offense. That's what we're looking at, so that's the only factor we care about."

Narduzzi has helped turn Michigan State into one of the nation's top defensive teams, but Saturday's game at No. 3 Oregon might be his biggest test yet. The matchup between the seventh-ranked Spartans and the high-scoring Ducks is perhaps the most intriguing nonconference game this season and Oregon's quick-paced offense will put plenty of pressure on Narduzzi's talented unit.

"They're a lot faster than we are, if you watch the tape," Nar-



No. 7 Michigan State (1-0)  
at No. 3 Oregon (1-0)  
AFN-Sports  
12:30 a.m. Sunday CET  
7:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

duzzi said. "We'll have our hands full."

Narduzzi may have been posturing a bit with that comment. There's no reason to sell Michigan State short after the Spartans finished second in the nation in total defense last season. Michigan State won the Big Ten and then beat Stanford in the Rose Bowl.

In the Big Ten title game against Ohio State, the Buckeyes were able to run the ball, but they completed only eight passes against Michigan State's secondary.

"They have some of the best defensive backs in the country. They

really trust those guys outside and they like to bring pressure," Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "We'll have to be able to communicate up front and make sure we're good in our protections and try and take our shots."

Oregon averaged 45 points per game last season, but the Ducks did lose twice, including against Stanford when they allowed three sacks and didn't score until the fourth quarter. Now it's Michigan State — with defensive standouts linemen Shilique Calhoun and safety Kurtis Drummond — that will try to slow Mariota's team.

Narduzzi estimates that Oregon is about four seconds per play faster than Jacksonville State, the team Michigan State beat last week. Throw in a potentially hot day out west and this will be quite a challenge for the Spartans.

"I may have seen a little extra pep to them, to be honest with you. We treat them the same. We try to hit them in the head with a baseball bat if we have to, to get them going," Narduzzi joked. "But I did see a little extra yesterday. We didn't have to bring the bats out."

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## MLB

## AL roundup

## Mariners rally past Athletics

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — If the Seattle Mariners can get into the AL wild card game against Jon Lester and the Oakland Athletics, they'll be plenty confident with King Felix on the mound.

Kyle Seager and Corey Hart homered leading off the seventh inning to back Felix Hernandez's stellar start, and the Mariners rallied to beat the A's 2-1 on Wednesday to win the three-game series between playoff contenders.

"I think we match up well," Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon said. "We've got a few bullets to throw at them that toe the rubber. We like our chances."

McClendon and the Mariners were in a light-hearted mood after the victory.

The manager pointed out that Hernandez looked well rested despite his much-maligned move to push his ace back a day before his last start against the Washington Nationals — which was Hernandez's worst outing of the season — by referencing a profanity-laced quote from former Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight.

McClendon could crack jokes mostly because of the homers that erased an otherwise brilliant performance by Lester (13-10) and helped Hernandez (14-5) win for the first time in four outings.

Adam Dunn's homer in the fourth accounted for the only run Hernandez allowed in eight innings. The right-hander gave up three hits, struck out four and walked two to outduel Lester in a matchup of two of the AL's best pitchers.

The Mariners tagged Lester for seven hits in eight innings. Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect ninth for his 41st save in 44 chances.

"It was special," said Hernandez, adding that he promised his wife a win for her birthday. "We came here to win the series and that's what we did."

Hernandez improved to 19-7 against Oakland.

**Yankees 5, Red Sox 1:** Brian McCann homered among his career high-tying four hits and host New York bounced back to end a three-game losing streak.

**Indians 7, Tigers 0:** Danny Salazar pitched his first career shutout, scattering eight hits, and host Cleveland beat Detroit.

**Astros 4, Angels 1:** Chris Carter homered twice and drove in three runs, Collin McHugh pitched into the eighth inning and host Houston beat Los Angeles.

**Royals 4, Rangers 1:** Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer, Jason Vargas pitched into the seventh inning and host Kansas City beat Texas to finish a three-game sweep.

**Blue Jays 7, Rays 4:** Dioner Navarro and Edwin Encarnacion each hit a two-run homer, and visiting Toronto rolled past Tampa Bay for its fourth straight win.

**Twins 11, White Sox 4:** Kennys Vargas homered for the second consecutive night and Eduardo Nunez had four hits as host Minnesota defeated Chicago.

## Interleague

**Orioles 6, Reds 0:** Miguel Gonzalez pitched a four-hitter for his first career complete game, and host Baltimore hit three home runs off Dylan Axelrod in a victory over Cincinnati.



Jae C. Hong/AP

The Nationals' Adam LaRoche hits a ninth-inning, two-run homer during Wednesday's game against the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

## NL roundup

## LaRoche steps up for Nats

## Pinch-hitter's 5 RBIs help Washington top Dodgers in 14

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Adam LaRoche didn't start on Wednesday for the Washington Nationals, but he sure did finish.

LaRoche pinch-hit in the ninth inning and ended up with five RBIs in Washington's wild 9-5, 14-inning win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He hit a tying homer, a go-ahead two-run single in the 12th, and added a run-scoring grounder in the 14th that sent the Nationals to a hard-fought victory.

LaRoche was scheduled to sit out on Wednesday because of a strained lower back, but entered in the ninth and made an immediate impact with a homer to tie it 2-2.

"We had to use Adam even though we didn't want to," Nationals manager Matt Williams said. "He was huge for us, especially hitting that homer in the ninth."

Asdrubal Cabrera added a two-run shot in the final inning for the Nationals, who withstood two late Los Angeles rallies in a game that lasted 5 hours, 34 minutes — the

longest at Dodger Stadium this season. Washington won two of three in the series, a potential playoff preview between NL division leaders.

All of LaRoche's RBIs either tied the game or gave the Nationals the lead.

LaRoche gave the Nationals the lead for good with a fielder's choice grounder in the 14th after an error by shortstop Justin Turner. Ian Desmond scored on the play, and LaRoche beat the relay to first to avoid a potential inning-ending double play.

LaRoche was also hit by a pitch on the left elbow in the 11th, but fought through the pain and stayed in. He wasn't made available to the media after the game because he was receiving so much medical treatment, according to team staff.

Cabrera added his two-run homer in the 14th, and Blake Treinen (2-3) finally made the lead stand up.

"It was fun to watch and just be a part of," Treinen said. "I really just tried to go out there and execute. Nothing fancy."

Kevin Correia (2-3) took the loss.

**Cardinals 1, Pirates 0:** Peter Bourjos singled home the winning run in the ninth inning, and host St. Louis beat Pittsburgh to stretch its winning streak to five.

**Braves 7, Phillies 4:** Rookie catcher Christian Bethancourt had three hits in his return to the major leagues, including a fifth-inning single that helped host Atlanta break out of its scoring slump.

**Rockies 9, Giants 2:** Nolan Arenado hit a go-ahead, three-run homer and Corey Dickerson followed with his second of the game, leading host Colorado.

**Mets 4, Marlins 3:** Travis d'Arnaud hit a go-ahead double in the eighth inning to lift visiting New York over Miami.

**Cubs 6, Brewers 2:** Jorge Soler hit a two-run double and host Chicago handed Milwaukee its eighth loss in a row.

**Diamondbacks 6, Padres 1:** Daniel Hudson returned from two reconstructive elbow operations to pitch in the big leagues for the first time in more than two years, and David Peralta drove in two runs to help visiting Arizona beat San Diego.



## NFL



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Wide receiver Aaron Dobson is one of nine New England Patriots with the most receptions last year who will be ready to play Sunday against the Miami Dolphins, leaving Tom Brady with plenty of options.

## Brady has familiar targets

Patriots' receiving corps starting off stronger than last season

By HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — When Tom Brady played in last year's opener, none of his top five pass catchers from the previous season were in uniform.

When he starts this season Sunday, the nine players with the most receptions last year for the New England Patriots should be ready to catch his throws.

"I hope we're at a better place than we were last year because we started pretty fresh last year," Brady said Wednesday. "We certainly have some new players, some new additions who are doing different things. Different guys are playing some different spots. But everyone's kind of got to find a role for themselves, and then we go out there and let it rip and see where we're at."

In 2012, Patriots wide receivers and tight ends caught 346 passes. In the 2013 opener, players who caught just 26 of those passes were active.

Last year, those positions produced 296 receptions for the Patriots. Players who caught 279 of them are expected to play Sunday at the Miami Dolphins.

"The more we're on the same page, the better we're going to be," Brady said. "Offensive football is about anticipation and about having a lot of trust and confidence in one another. I think we built on that."

The Patriots began last season with a new veteran wide receiver, Danny Amendola, and three rookies — Aaron Dobson, Kenbrell Thompson and Josh Boyce. Tight

end Rob Gronkowski missed the first six games following forearm and back surgery.

This season's newcomers are wide receiver Brandon LaFell, who had a career-high 49 catches last season, his fourth with Carolina, and tight end Tim Wright, who had 54 receptions as a rookie last season with Tampa Bay.

LaFell has had plenty of time to adjust to the Patriots system after signing as a free agent on March 17. A turning point came in the week leading up to the preseason opener at Washington when the Patriots practiced with the Redskins.

"I started getting a little comfortable in this offense probably after the joint practices against the Redskins," he said. "It was going against somebody else who hasn't seen what we run every day in practice. After a while you go against your defense every day. They know your calls. They know your checks."

Wright has had much less time to prepare.

The Patriots obtained him for six-time Pro-Bowl guard Logan Mankins on Aug. 26. Two days later, Wright caught four passes, all from rookie Jimmy Garoppolo, in a 16-13 preseason loss to the New York Giants.

Brady will be doing the throwing Sunday.

"He's a great quarterback and we're trying to do as much as we can on the side, just trying to get that connection down," Wright said. "Tom [and] the coaches are going to do a good job getting me ready and I'm going to feel confident on game day."

Wright came to the NFL as a 6-foot-4, 220-pound wide receiver who wasn't drafted out of Rutgers. He was converted to tight end by the Buccaneers and gives the Patriots an athletic pass catcher.

"We're trying to get to know each other and spend extra time communicating, gain his understanding of the things that he expects versus my expectations. It's really a learning process," Brady said. "If he's out there, if they don't cover him, I'll probably throw him the ball."

Wright was happy to hear that from the 15-year veteran who has been his teammate barely a week.

"I feel good about it, just trying to go out there and be consistent and try to earn his trust," Wright said. "Just know I could be a person that he could rely on."

The biggest addition is Gronkowski, who played just seven games last season then missed the last three of the regular season plus two in the playoffs with a knee injury. He said Monday that he will play Sunday after missing all four preseason games.

Coach Bill Belichick wasn't ready to declare that publicly.

"We're going to do what we always do, which is evaluate the players and select the active roster based on the players that we feel give our team the best opportunity to win this week," he said. "That's what we've always done and that's what we'll do for this team for every player and every situation. How that will turn out, I don't know."

### Briefs

## Concussions down 13 percent last year

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The NFL released its Health and Safety report to The Associated Press on Wednesday and concussions decreased overall during the 2013 season. The league said concussions were down 13 percent from the previous year and the number of concussions coming from helmet-to-helmet contact was down 23 percent.

Those numbers were notable considering concussions were a particular focus for the league during the 2013 season, which included independent neurologists on the sidelines and unaffiliated athletic trainers watching for injuries from the press box.

"That's not success, but that's a nice move in the right direction," said Jeff Miller, the NFL's senior vice president of health and safety. "When you talk about culture change and you look at that 23 percent number, there is something going on that is relevant."

And we would want to eliminate more of those helmet-to-helmet hits and we will. And we want players to react to change the way players play the game to avoid that kind of incident. And we will continue to push that, but we're very well aware that the progress that we've made, while good, indicates there is more work to be done, too, and we'll continue to pursue that."

The report also noted there were fewer ACL injuries in 2013 than the previous year, and MCL injuries were almost the same. Miller said concerns about the new rules on defenseless receivers possibly leading to lower body hits and more leg/knee injuries didn't pan out statistically — at least in the first year.

### Seau's family opts out of settlement deal

NEW YORK — The family of Junior Seau has opted out of a proposed NFL legal settlement with former players over concussion-related injuries.

The family will continue its wrongful death lawsuit against the league. Seau, a star linebacker for 20 seasons who made 11 Pro Bowls, committed suicide in 2012.

"We have tried to communicate it that it is not satisfactory, and all we met were deaf ears," the family's lawyer, Steve Strauss, told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "The settlement does not give any value at all for the claims of his four children. Or the loss of his companionship or the loss of his future earnings."

More than 4,500 former players have filed a class action suit against the league, some accusing it of fraud for its handling of concussions. They include Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett and Super Bowl-winning Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, who suffers from dementia.

A federal judge preliminarily approved the league's settlement proposal in July, which could exceed \$675 million in total damages and involve as many as 20,000 retired players.

Former players and their families have the option to skip the settlement and pursue their own lawsuits. That's what Seau's family has done one month before the deadline to opt out, and Strauss hopes others will follow their lead.

### Goodell: League keeps eye on McDonald case

RENTON, Wash. — Commissioner Roger Goodell said the NFL is closely watching San Francisco defensive lineman Ray McDonald's case after the institution of a new policy on domestic violence.

Goodell said the league is still waiting to get all the facts in McDonald's case and that any discipline under the new policy would not be applied until the legal system had run its course.

McDonald faces felony domestic violence charges for an incident during his 30th birthday party with teammates and friends Sunday, when police say his alleged victim suffered "visible injuries."

Goodell apologized in his announcement of the new policy last week saying he "didn't get it right" with a two-game suspension of Baltimore running back Ray Rice. Goodell said Wednesday the league wasn't where it needed to be and took responsibility for its shortcomings.

"It was important for the ownership to understand that and how serious we are taking this issue. The importance of the work that needs to be done," he said. "It's not just about discipline. We're going to step up every aspect of our program, our education, training."

### Daily News won't use Redskins name, logo

NEW YORK — One of the nation's largest newspapers said it will no longer use the name Redskins when writing about Washington's NFL team.

The Daily News of New York said Thursday in a lead editorial titled "Suck the Name Out of the Reference" that the name, the reference will no longer be part of stories and columns. The name, however, may appear in quotations, reader letters and discussion of the dispute. Also, the logo of a feathered Native American will be dropped, replaced by an image that features team colors.

The editorial notes that language changes through the years, and "the time has come to leave the word behind."

Other media outlets have also dropped the name. CBS analyst Phil Simms, who will handle Washington's Week 4 game, said he likely won't use the nickname.

NFL

# Demise of a defense

## Use of 'Tampa 2' scheme on decline around league

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

**T** rue innovation in the NFL can be tough. Successful schemes breed imitations and force opponents to adjust. Eventually, even for the soundest of systems, the code is bound to be cracked.

Consider the case of the "Tampa 2" defense.

"You're not going to shock people when you throw out the Tampa 2: 'Oh, my gosh. How do we attack this?' Because that's all they've been doing for quite a few years now," said Dallas assistant coach Monte Kiffin, who directed and perfected the defense under Tony Dungy with Tampa Bay.

While Kiffin and Rod Marinelli still teach it with the Cowboys, and Lovie Smith and Leslie Frazier have returned it to the Buccaneers, but evidence of the Tampa 2's use around the NFL these days is scant. Ten years ago, this was an ideal base defense.

Teams could rely on a four-man pass rush up front more than blitzing. In turn, outside linebackers and cornerbacks dropped into coverage zones, with the middle linebacker backpedaling into the crease between the safeties to make deep passes difficult. Sure tacklers from the back seven were assigned to gaps in the line for run support, freeing the front four to focus on one each. Scoring against a Tampa 2 was going to require patience.

"We did a lot of things that were simplistic. We never worried about the size. The defense was built on quickness," Kiffin said.

Smith, Marinelli and Herm Edwards were Buccaneers assistants in the late 1990s under Dungy and Kiffin, who took the system south after developing it together in

Minnesota. The catchy nickname for this derivative of the Cover 2 zone strategy, defined by two safeties splitting the deep halves of the field in pass coverage, stuck during Tampa Bay's time as an NFC power.

The roots, however, traced to Pittsburgh with head coach Chuck Noll and defensive coordinator Bud Carson two decades before that. Dungy was a young defensive back then for the Steelers.

"People identified it with Tampa, but there was nothing different. We didn't make any changes from the 1975 playbook," Dungy said. "There isn't too much new in the game of football that hasn't been done before."

With tackle

Warren Sapp, linebacker Derrick Brooks and safety John Lynch, whose Buccaneers teams had quite the backbone.

"You can have the blueprints, but if you don't have the parts they don't work," Brooks said. "Players play the game. Systems don't."

Seams in the coverage, though, were easier to exploit without Hall of Fame players like Sapp and Brooks defending. Dungy and Edwards moved from the sideline to the TV studio. The increase in three-wide receiver and two-tight end sets, plus elite quarterback play, minimized the effectiveness of the Tampa 2.

Then there was the rule changes

designed to stem head and neck injuries, with stiffer penalties for hits on defenseless receivers. Opponents, thus, became more emboldened to run routes across the middle without an enforcer like Lynch waiting to punish them.

"Lynch would knock the hell out of you," Sapp said. "You can't do it anymore. That's the question I have for Lovie. How do you plan on doing what we did to take away the middle of that field?"

Still, Frazier, eager to work with Pro Bowl tackle Gerald McCoy and linebacker Lavonte David, said he has "no doubt" the Tampa 2 is still viable.

"We feel like we have the foundation on this defense to make it work," Frazier said.

### Did you know

Behind Hall-of-fame players like Warren Sapp, left, and Derrick Brooks, right, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers rode the 'Tampa 2' defense to the team's first Super Bowl win during the 2002-03 NFL season.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

**'We did a lot of things that were simplistic. We never worried about the size. The defense was built on quickness.'**

**Monte Kiffin**  
Dallas Cowboys  
assistant coach

PHOTOS BY STEVE NESIUS, RIGHT,  
AND CHARLES KRUHA, LEFT/17

# SPORTS

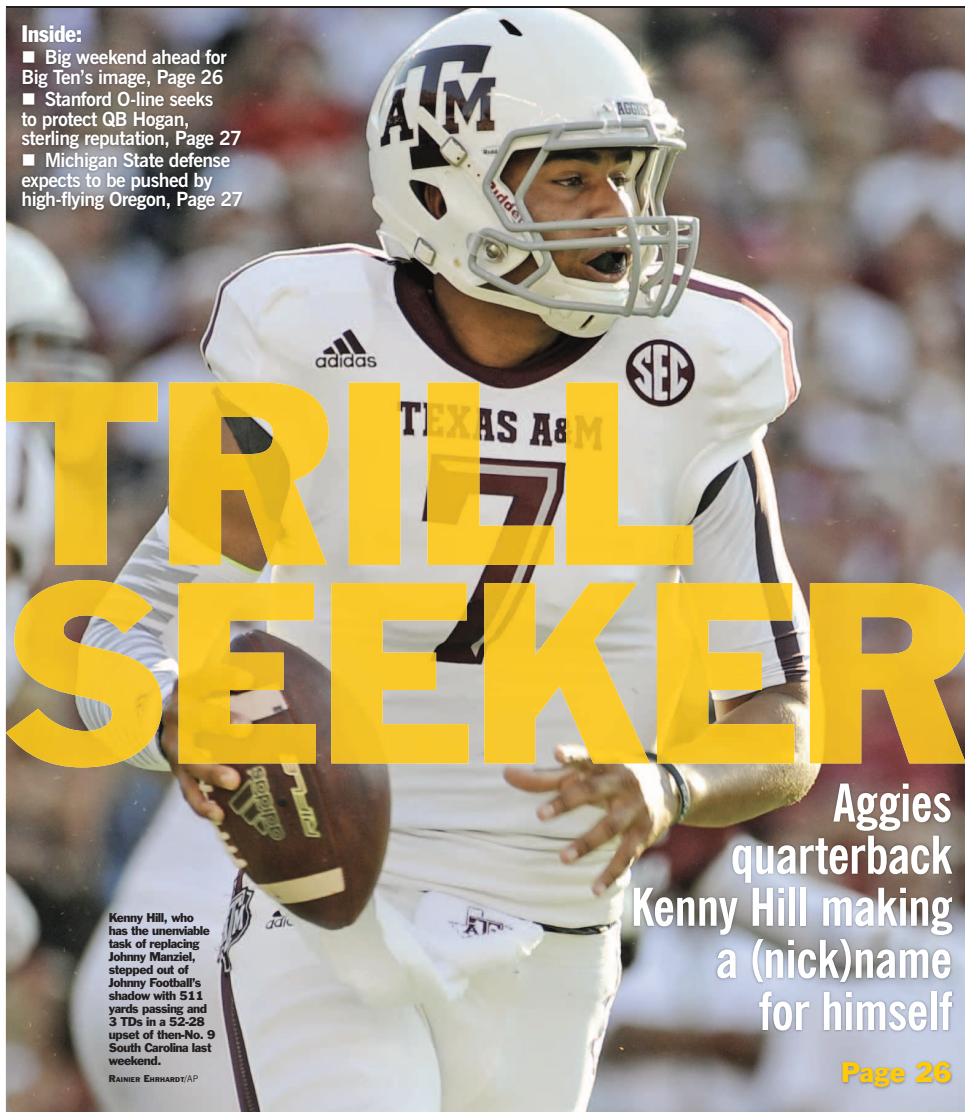


## Performing in a pinch

Ninth-inning sub LaRoche drives in 5 runs as Nats beat Dodgers in 14 | **MLB, Page 29**

### Inside:

- Big weekend ahead for Big Ten's image, Page 26
- Stanford O-line seeks to protect QB Hogan, sterling reputation, Page 27
- Michigan State defense expects to be pushed by high-flying Oregon, Page 27



Kenny Hill, who has the unenviable task of replacing Johnny Manziel, stepped out of Johnny Football's shadow with 511 yards passing and 3 TDs in a 52-28 upset of then-No. 9 South Carolina last weekend.

RAINER ERHARDT/AP

Aggies  
quarterback  
Kenny Hill making  
a (nick)name  
for himself

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Heyday is over for innovative 'Tampa 2' defense  
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Djokovic tops Murray in battle of recent champs  
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